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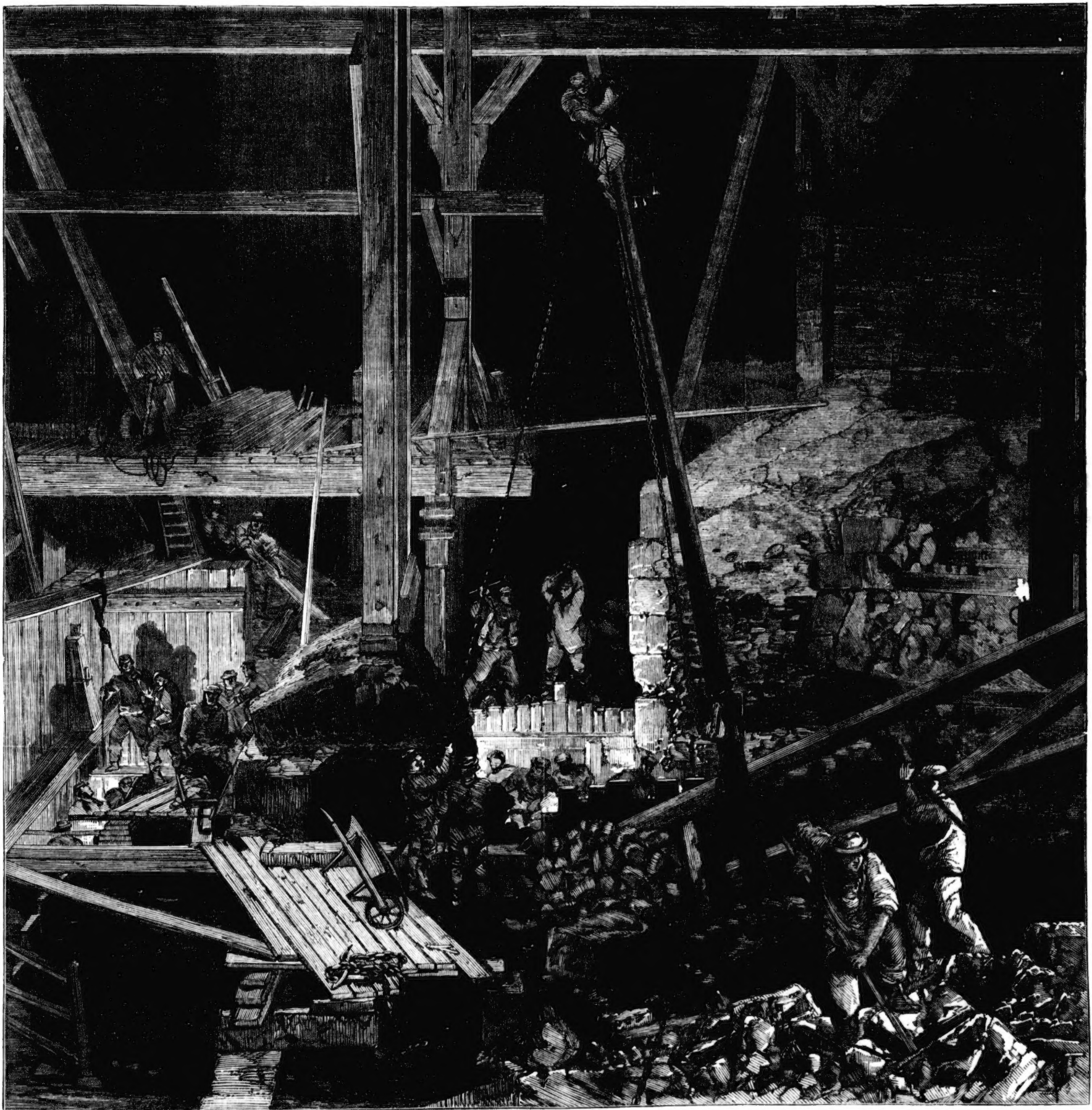
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AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

THE negotiations between the Austrian Government and the chief men in Hungary are, according to most of our contemporaries, going on very smoothly. It must be remembered, however, that the Austrian Cabinet has hitherto been dealing exclusively with members of the high aristocracy in Hungary, who have always been well disposed towards the Court, and who are the natural enemies of insurrection, and indeed of

popular movements of all kinds. As for the lesser nobility and the middle class, or what more or less nearly corresponds to it, we shall not hear their views fully developed until their representatives make their appearance in the Diet. Then, again, there is the extreme party, which may at this moment be working underground, and which has more than once demonstrated its existence in public in the streets of Pesth. The aim of the "extremes" is the total independence of

Hungary, and they only approve of negotiations with Austria as a means of arriving ultimately at that much-desired result. It may be said that this party, which includes very few men of good position, is contemptible, and need not be considered; but we know, from examples in other States, what mischief may be caused by a comparatively small number of reckless agitators, acting in the name of patriotism, and prompted, no doubt, by patriotic feeling; but, at the same time, utterly



EXCAVATING FOR THE NORTH PIER AND TIDAL DAM, NEW BLACKFRIARS-BRIDGE.

misguided, and bent upon forcing their country, in spite of itself, into an unequal and desperate contest.

Several addresses from candidates for election to the Diet have now been published, and we find that even the high Conservatives are disposed to ask more concessions—or "rights," to use their own very proper language—for Hungary than Austria, in our opinion, is at all likely to grant. M. Ghiczy, who was President of the Hungarian Diet in 1861, has just made a speech to the electors of Comorn, in which he tells them that the person of the Monarch is the only connecting link between Austria and Hungary, and that the "interests of the two countries are diametrically opposed." The new Bank Act, which is so much admired in Austria, is, according to M. Ghiczy, "the principal cause of the impoverishment of the Hungarian landed proprietors and agriculturists." He concludes that there is but one remedy for such evils, and that Hungary must have "her own Legislative Assembly and her own independent Government." What is still more remarkable is the address of M. Zsedenyi, who belongs to the extreme right of the Conservative party, and who asks, in other words, all that M. Ghiczy demands. We may be sure that Austria will not only not consent to the Hungarians possessing a perfectly independent Government, but that it will not even agree to their retaining the direction of their own military and financial affairs.

Of course it is just possible that the Hungarians may be only preparing to strike a good bargain. They ask a great deal now; but, in the end, will perhaps be ready to take something less. Those who claim, in England, to be acquainted with the views of the moderate party in Hungary say that they will agree to send deputies to the Austrian Reichsrath on three conditions—first, that they shall be allowed, while granting a fixed quota of troops—the number to be determined by the central Assembly—to reserve to themselves the entire control over the system by which those troops are recruited; secondly, while voting their fair contribution to the Imperial revenue, that they shall retain the right of raising the taxes themselves; thirdly, that the Emperor shall not treat with the Hungarian, Transylvanian, and Croatian peoples separately, but as one nation, represented, as formerly, by the Hungarian Diet. Now there may be nothing to say against these conditions on the score of justice; but the great question is not whether they are in themselves just, but whether they are likely, under any circumstances, to be accepted by the Austrian Government. We do not believe that one of them will be accepted. The Hungarians will certainly not be allowed either to recruit their own army or to levy their own taxes; while, unless the Croats and Transylvanians should themselves, by a sudden revulsion of feeling, desire it, it is most improbable that Austria will call upon them to send deputies to an assembly which, since 1848, has been regarded by Croatia and Transylvania much as the Reichsrath is regarded by Hungary. There is, of course, this important difference, that the Croats and Transylvanians sent deputies to the Hungarian Diet of old, when they were proud of the privilege of being represented in that august assembly, and when, without the assistance of Hungary, their frontiers would never have been safe; whereas the Hungarians have never yet sent deputies to Vienna. The Croats and Transylvanians know, moreover, that the Hungarian Diet is the heart of Hungary, and that Hungary cannot live without it; while the Reichsrath does not, by any means, form a vital part of Austria. To paraphrase Byron's version of the prophecy concerning Rome and the Coliseum, it may be said that

While stands the Diet, Hungary shall stand;
When falls the Diet, Hungary shall fall.

The history of Austria, on the other hand, has been the history of the destruction of national representative assemblies by the central power established at Vienna. Nevertheless, the Croats and Transylvanians may still maintain the opinion which they held to in 1861, as in 1848—that their national life is, under present circumstances, more likely to be respected by the Austrians, who are a long way off, and who were able to make use of them in 1848 as allies, than by the Hungarians, whose influence as neighbours they cannot help undergoing, and who, in 1848, seemed desirous of merging the political existence of Croatia and Transylvania in that of Hungary. This may be condemned as a mean view, but it is undoubtedly the view that was held by the Croats and Transylvanians in 1861; and, if they have not yet abandoned it, we may be sure that they will not be asked to do so by the Austrian Government.

Those English writers must possess considerable naïveté who assume that Austria is almost as anxious to give as Hungary is to receive satisfaction for all past injuries. The fact is, Austria wishes to satisfy Hungary, while holding the country in her power; whereas Hungary wishes, above all, not to be in Austria's power, so that, if Austria does not keep her promises, she may be in a position to withdraw from the compact altogether. "If," say the Hungarians and their friends in England (among whom we class ourselves, though without abandoning the right of forming our own opinion upon their affairs), "the Emperor entertains no sinister designs, he ought not to object to the Hungarians recruiting their own army and levying their own taxes; but if he does entertain such designs, the Hungarians ought to possess the power of thwarting them." The Austrian Government, however, may argue, on its part, that if the Hungarians have no thought of seceding from the rest of the empire, they need say nothing about either a separate army or a separate system of finances.

If any arrangement is to be come to there must be concessions on both sides, and, above all, there must, to some

extent, be mutual confidence. Were the Austrians sure that the Hungarians had no thought of ever leaving them, and could the Hungarians be equally certain that the Viennese Government would never attempt to reduce their lawfully free and independent country to the position of an Austrian province, an understanding would be much more easy to bring about than it seems to be now. The history of their past intercourse warrants a certain amount of distrust on the part of both the negotiators, and it will be difficult, we fear, to overcome it.

THE EXCAVATIONS FOR THE NEW PIER AND THE TIDAL DAM AT BLACKFRIARS.

A JOURNEY upon the Thames from London Bridge to Westminster, on a moonlight night, is at present one of the most wonderful voyages which an intelligent traveller can well make; for he will see science, as it were, under a picturesque haze, which renders utility beautiful and combines even railway architecture with a sense of art. The marvellous webs of timber scaffolding rising on the banks, the great arches of trellised iron beams spanning the stream, the broad causeway which is rising (with all its preliminary secrets revealed) upon the shore, and the caverns where the piers of bridges are to rest, and busy companies of workmen ply their labour in great depths, where solid stone and iron will soon take the place but yesterday occupied by water and the slimy ooze of the river's bed—all these things are but a part of the marvels which greet the thoughtful seer as he stands and gazes either from the arch of one of the bridges or from the deck of a penny steam-boat in his three-mile passage up the Thames.

We have already published Illustrations, with particulars of the laying the stone, of the new bridge at Blackfriars; and in a previous Number we had given some detailed description of the appearance which that bridge will present when it is completed. Our Engraving this week represents the operations now in progress on the north side at Blackfriars for preparing the foundations of the piers. There is nothing very special in the work itself except its magnitude, since the tidal dam, which secures for the excavators a square space, which may be pumped out so that the foundations may be dug, consists only of piles driven into the river bed by the powerful machinery which has already been in use for a similar purpose. Then will follow the insertion of the enormous blocks of stone, the sinking of the hollow iron caissons in clusters, each stem of which is screwed in fresh lengths till it reaches the height where it will receive the capital to support the mighty framework of arches, and the raising of those tremendous ties and girders which look so light and fragile, but which are calculated to bear the strain even of London's traffic.

There is nothing very remarkable in the works at the new dam, when compared with some already accomplished, but the scaffolding climbing mazelike upwards, the twinkling lights in the excavations below, and the busy movement of the labourers just dimly seen in the deepening twilight, combine to add one more remarkable feature to that bank of the river where modern engineering skill seems to have put forth all its resources.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There is some talk in Paris about a political mission to Florence, with which Count Walewski is to be charged. There is, however, only vague conjecture as to the object of the mission, the rumours regarding which, indeed, have been declared to be incorrect. A nice question has been raised respecting the respective dignity and authority of the official *communiqué* and the *avertissement*, through the attentions with which M. de Lavalette has recently honoured the *Gazette de France*. The Minister is evidently dissatisfied with a pledge volunteered by the *Gazette* henceforth to receive any *communiqué* in solemn silence—a very safe, and it might be supposed a very judicious, resolve, even to the official mind. But the regulator of public discussion takes occasion thereupon to point out that such entire submission is supererogatory, and need only be practised with regard to the *avertissement*, which is to be considered absolute and indisputable.

In conformity with the decision of the Commission appointed under the presidency of the Empress to inquire into the internal management of juvenile convict prisons, the Minister of the Interior has ordered the evacuation of the prison of La Roquette. The convicts will be distributed among the different agricultural penal settlements.

Cholera has made its appearance in Paris; and in the suburb of Clichy, where the soil is marshy and ill-drained, the disease has assumed quite an epidemic character. Still, no official return is given of the number of deaths. From the towns of Italy and Spain where the disease was prevalent the reports show a steady decline in the list of fatalities.

At a general meeting of the shareholders in the Suez Canal Company, on the 5th inst., M. de Lesseps stated that the company still held an available capital of 180,000,000*fr.* The small canal for navigation would, even next year, have an amount of traffic lucrative to the company and useful to commerce. The great canal would, he said, be terminated in 1868.

SPAIN.

Four persons were killed and five wounded in the tumults which took place at Saragossa on the 3rd inst., arising from the refusal of the peasants to pay the municipal octroi.

The *Independence Belge* publishes the text of two documents—the first, a despatch, dated Aug. 3, purporting to have been addressed by Senor Bermudez Castro, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, to Count Mensdorff, replying to the protests of the latter on the part of Austria against the recognition of Italy by Spain. In this Senor Castro admits that Austria and Spain agree upon several political questions, but points out that they have not identical interests in Italy. The second document is a circular, dated Sept. 20, addressed to the Spanish diplomatic agents abroad, to whom Senor Castro communicates his despatch of Aug. 3 above mentioned, and the circumstances under which it was written. The Minister protests against any idea of a pre-existing engagement between the two States respecting a common line of policy with regard to Italy, and repels the insinuation of Count Mensdorff that the recognition of Italy imperils the dynastic institutions of Spain.

AUSTRIA.

Rear-Admiral Baron von Willersdorff-Urbair, in assuming his functions as Minister of Commerce, addressed the Staff of his Ministry in a speech, laying particular stress on the necessity for unity of action. The Minister further said:—"It is necessary for Austria that all commerce should be free, and that labour should receive a better remuneration. All obstacles which oppose the free development of material interests ought, therefore, to be removed. The centre of our action does not lie in our offices alone, we must seek it in the world beyond."

The Prince Primate of Hungary has published a sort of manifesto in reference to the approaching meeting of the Diet, in which he calls upon the electors to respond to the confidence placed in them by the Emperor by choosing as their representatives men "not animated by passion," but "guided by political prudence and fairness," and, "above all, by an earnest desire for reconciliation."

POLAND.

The authorities of Warsaw have received a notification that the state of siege in the kingdom of Poland is to conclude with the present year. They are therefore instructed to make out a scale of legal punishments for offences to be adjudicated by the police tribunals.

GREECE.

A telegram from Athens announces another change in the Greek Ministry, the Ministers of War, Marine, and Justice having resigned.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our advices from New York reach to the 30th ult.

The Alabama Convention had declared the Act of Secession null and void, and had ordained that, as slavery had been destroyed, there shall hereafter be no involuntary servitude in the State, except in punishment of crime, and that all provisions in relation to slavery and slaves shall be struck from the State Constitution; also that the State Legislature shall by legislation protect the freed men in all rights of person and property, and guard them against all evils that may arise from this sudden emancipation. The Convention had also declared the State debt contracted in support of the war null and void, and prohibited the Legislature from authorising its payment at any period hereafter.

The South Carolina Convention had abolished slavery in that State. The Convention appointed a committee to wait upon President Johnson and intercede in behalf of Mr. Jefferson Davis, Governor Magrath, and Mr. Trenholme.

Generals Palmer and Brisbane had been indicted by the Kentucky courts for abducting slaves and other infringements of the Kentucky slave laws.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Times* explains that a recently-published notification to the United States citizens having claims against foreign Governments to forthwith forward statements of the same to the State Department issued by Secretary Seward, was intended to include demands for indemnification for the depredations of the Alabama and other Confederate cruisers, and of Confederate raiders from Canada.

In the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Virginia, assembled in Alexandria, the presiding Judge (Underwood), in conformity with a recent order of General Howard concerning the abandoned lands in possession of the Freedmen's Bureau, had directed a discontinuance, upon payment of costs, of all proceedings under the confiscation laws against persons who had been pardoned by the President.

M. Joaquim de Azambuja, having succeeded Senhor Lisboa as Brazilian Minister at Washington, had presented his credentials to President Johnson. During the interchange of courtesies Mr. Johnson, alluding to the policy of the Federal Government, said:—

America wishes to promote civilisation in the hemisphere, develop its material resources, improve commerce, and introduce as fast as possible free and intelligent labour into the virgin fields of this continent. Instead of weakening new American States, we wish to strengthen them by reposing in them a generous confidence rather than indulge jealousies of their prosperity or a querulous disposition regarding the manner in which their governments are administered. All the nations of America, if they would continue to exist, must aspire to absolute self-sustaining independence and perfect political equality with other nations. If Brazil agree in this policy, we shall not only be close friends, but practically become firm and fast allies.

MEXICO.

Despatches from Acapulco of the 17th ult., via San Francisco, report that 500 soldiers from French ships in the harbour had taken possession of the town, which had been previously evacuated by Alvarez's Republican forces, which numbered 1500 men, badly equipped and short of ammunition.

Advices from Vera Cruz to Sept. 15 state that the Republicans, under Cortinas and Cobea, had fought a three hours' engagement with a column of Mejia's forces, at Coleros, in Nueva Leon. The Imperialists fell back in good order, after firing their last cartridge. The Republicans, under Vega, had surprised the town of Catarces and levied a loan of 80,000*dols.*

An Imperial decree had been published declaring Mexico open to emigration from all countries. Every immigrant will receive a grant of land, with an authentic and immutable title, will be exempt from military service for five years, and will enjoy religious liberty.

INDIA.

The most noticeable political event reported from India has been a Darbar held by Sir H. Bartle Frere, at Poonah, in which he received, in great state, the sirdars of the Deccan and addressed them, in a very eloquent speech, in the Marathi language, and boldly told them of many of their shortcomings and deficiencies. The rainfall at Bombay had been 8 in. above the average, and, as rain had been plentiful throughout the country, the crops were looking well. Intelligence had been received of the loss of her Majesty's steamer *Hugh Lyndsay*, off Bassadore. There had been some disturbances in the Deccan, but the movement was confined to the Nawab's dominions.

CHINA.

The more remote provinces of China seem to be sharing the anarchy which has so long preyed upon that unhappy empire. A revolt has taken place in Western Tartary, the immediate result being that the province of Ili has thrown off its allegiance to the Pekin Emperor. Burgevine, the American, has been "drowned"—so the mandarins ominously report.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

(From the "Times.")

THE year 1848 introduced a new element into the process of assimilation by which the house of Austria had for two centuries been endeavouring to reduce the different countries under its sway into one homogeneous mass.

Hungary and the lands connected with her had alone withstood until then all efforts made to convert the empire into a centralised and absolute monarchy. Everywhere else the task seemed, according to all appearances, accomplished. In pompous diplomatic documents the titles of the Emperor to the different countries were, indeed, scrupulously enumerated, and their arms appended to the Great Seal—nay, in some of them, as Bohemia and the kingdom of Lombardo-Venetia, the Emperors went through the formality of being crowned; but in reality the non-Hungarian provinces were under a well-centralised bureaucracy, which extended its influence to the most trifling local affairs. It was not thought necessary to do away with the form of Provincial Estates. Composed of the great landed aristocracy, of members of the high clergy, and a deputy or two from the universities, they met once a year to hear an address from the Imperial Commissioner, to move a humble address in return, and then to be sent home again. Such had been the course of things for years, and there seemed no reason why it should not go on like this for centuries.

All of a sudden this fancied security was disturbed by a storm such as rarely bursts over a State. Vienna, the capital, the very place which was reaping all the advantages of centralisation and absolute rule, gave the signal, which was soon followed by all the nations. The Italians wanted to be Italians, the Bohemians to be Czechs, the Galicians to be Poles, and even the Germans went in for the famous Frankfurt Parliament which was to unite Germany. The empire was threatened with disruption. Everyone lost his self-possession, everything was promised in the first confusion, and everything tolerated during the first moments of weakness.

It was then that Austria had to regret the system of tutelage in which her western provinces had been kept through centuries. They behaved like children who have thrown off all control. Entirely without political education, they fell into the wildest French theories, and, as nearly as they could learn from books, the first revolutionary period.

On the other hand, those who had ruled until then were not more advanced in these things than the people themselves. To bureaucrats, soldiers, or members of the high aristocracy, the very idea that people could have such things as rights was incomprehensible. His Majesty the Emperor was the alpha and omega of their political wisdom. Instead of exerting, therefore, all the resources and the prestige at their command to moderate and guide the wild dance, they could find nothing better than a military reaction to beat down whatever moved not only in the western provinces, but likewise in Hungary, which had been long a source of trouble.

This was so much the more to be regretted, as Hungary, having at last obtained that national government to which she was entitled, had such a fit of loyalty and enthusiasm towards the reigning family as rarely a people felt; and, had there been a statesman then in Austria who would have understood the position, much trouble and misery might have been spared to people and rulers.

Indeed, the great difficulty of coming to an understanding with Hungary had been that, while the latter country claimed, and in a great measure enjoyed, the advantages of constitutional self-government, the rest of the empire was ruled by a system of bureaucracy. The two were incompatible; hence the strife for life and death between them. The crisis in March had removed this difficulty, and a Constituent Assembly was to elaborate a new system of government for the non-Hungarian provinces; and, provided this new programme was loyally pursued, the Austrian and Hungarian constitutional systems might then have been harmonised.

True, in the first flush of success, Hungary was loth to make concessions which, so soon after the victory, looked like giving back a portion of what had just been obtained. Still, had there been loyalty in Vienna, the great majority of the nation would have lent its co-operation to a compromise. But when the Court, having regained Lombardy and checked the effervescence in the non-Hungarian provinces, gave unmistakable proofs of its intention to reduce Hungary by the same military reaction, and moreover roused the different races who had been so peacefully dwelling in the country to an internecine war, the spirit of the nation was roused; those who still hoped and wished for a compromise lost all their influence, and the nation followed those who were ready to push matters to an extreme, and who could point to undoubted facts to prove the intention of the Court to reduce Hungary to a subject province.

The result was the war of 1848-9, as to which we should like to point out how even the crisis—namely, the declaration of independence and deposition of the reigning House—was provoked by the advisers of the young Emperor. Misled by the reports of their Generals in Hungary, and thinking their victory assured, they induced him to dissolve the Constituent Assembly for non-Hungarian Provinces, which had dragged on a weary existence at Kremsir, and to grant, on the 6th of March, 1849, a Constitution for the whole empire, Hungary included. It was as an answer to this decree, which annihilated the existence of Hungary, that the Hungarian Diet voted the separation from Austria. This ought always to be remembered, for it shows that Hungary was driven to this step, which may have been ill-advised before victory was assured, but which was natural enough under the circumstances. Once on this slope, there was no more stopping. Russia was called in, and, as we all know, the war ended with the complete subjection of Hungary.

The integrity of Austria had been restored; the question was how to rule it. The army had saved Austria; the war had made a *tabula rasa* of all that had existed before; there were no obligations binding the Sovereign, and no rights which any portion of Austria could claim. The Constitution which the Emperor had granted in March, 1849, was mentioned no more, and under the Schwarzenberg-Bach Ministry the most perfect model of bureaucratic centralisation which Vienna employes could desire was introduced all over the empire indiscriminately. Hungary was parcelled out into districts, which were modelled according to the Vienna pattern; a host of German employes were sent down to work the system, the large army behind giving the necessary vigour and impulse; that uniformity which had been wished for so long in vain was at last attained, and, full of confidence in his valiant army of soldiers and employes, the young Emperor might have imagined, from 1850 to 1859, that he had at last accomplished what all his ancestors had attempted in vain.

There was, indeed, one moment when he must have felt that his strength was more apparent than real. It was during the Eastern War, when, partly through a certain feeling of obligation towards Russia, partly through a sense of insecurity at home, Austria played a part so sadly at variance with all her traditions and claims as a first-rate Power. What was merely foreshadowed in 1854-5 was mercilessly brought home to the Emperor by the Italian War of 1859. The empire was inert and powerless to weather any crisis which might threaten it from outside, while the costly system of repression at home exhausted the life-blood of the empire. Even that long-desired uniformity might be bought too dearly at that price.

The question was, what to substitute. The first steps were in the right direction. The different countries constituting the empire were invited to send members to a sort of preliminary conference to Vienna, to discuss in an amicable way the best manner of remedying the mistakes of the past. There could be no mistake about the opinion of the great majority. They might be resumed in the one word, "self-government;" and it was in harmony with this that the Patent of Oct. 20, 1860, was published, which recognised the historical rights of the different lands, and promised to restore them to those that had them, as far as they were not in opposition to the unity of monarchy, while even those countries which had had no such historical position should have self-government in all matters not interfering with the general interests of the empire.

The Patent was received with great satisfaction everywhere, except, of course, in Italy, and except by the bureaucracy, which felt that the self-government of each historical division of the Austrian empire was their death-blow. Indeed, what would become of the army of employes which had grown up under the Bach system, and which had been feeding on the marrow of the land? The bureaucratic interest, otherwise all-powerful, found a skilful champion in M. Schmerling, who, like Bach, a renegade from the popular camp in 1848, conceived the idea of parrying the danger by offering a ready-made Constitution, on the French July model, instead of the promised self-government of the different countries.

This was the Constitution of Feb. 26, 1861, which the Patent of Sept. 20 has just repealed. It is not necessary to enter into the details of this Constitution; it was like so many other Continental documents of the kind, establishing a sort of popular representation supposed to control a well-centralised administration. That is—a number of men, who never had practically the slightest experience of how to manage a vestry or a village, were to meet and discuss, settle and control, the general policy of the empire.

But this was, after all, a matter of taste. If the people of Austria liked it there would have been no objection to its leading really to good. True, there was no Ministerial responsibility, and there were other guarantees which were still wanting; but it cannot be said in fairness that it was all a farce, considering the reductions which were effected in this year's sittings.

The difficulty was that the immense majority of the Austrian empire did not think such a system suited to the state of things as developed by the force of events.

An agglomeration of a number of States possessing different institutions, inhabited by a variety of races, cannot prosper and develop itself under a narrow system of centralisation, be it called constitutional or absolute. Self-government, by which each fraction may follow its own instincts, and only the connection between all of them which is necessary to make the empire respected abroad, and thus derive the benefit of the Union—such were the opinions not only of Hungarians, Croats, Transylvanians, but likewise of most Bohemians, Moravians, Galicians, Dalmatians, not to speak of Italians, who, of course, looked altogether in a different direction.

The only people really satisfied were a number of professors and other theoreticians, who had a sort of Austria after the model of Louis Philippe's France in their head, and then the more intelligent portion of the bureaucracy, which saw that it was better to save something than to risk all. By dint of management the Government contrived, indeed, to have representatives chosen for most of the non-Hungarian provinces, and even for Transylvania; but among the men themselves who were chosen there was a large number who despaired of ever remodelling Austria on the basis of centralisation. They went under the name of Federalists, and formed a strong minority in the Reichsrath itself, but laboured under the disadvantage of being set down as reactionists; for, not believing in the success of the February Constitution, they were

shown up by their adversaries as the enemies of all constitutional government.

Four years' experience seems at last to have brought home to the Emperor the convictions that the system inaugurated by the Constitution of February could never lead to a solution of the difficulty. The Minister Schmerling was dismissed, and a new Government formed, which takes its stand on the principle of federation as the connecting link of the Austrian empire. It has called together the Diets in the different countries, and has repealed the Constitution which took as its leading principle the administrative centralisation of the whole empire. We will try to illustrate in a third article the character and bearing of this new and most important phase in the transformations of Austria.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.

THE Social Science Congress has continued its labours at Sheffield since our last Number. A variety of subjects have been under consideration; but perhaps the most interesting feature of the meeting was that depicted in our Engraving—namely, the

GREAT MEETING WITH WORKING MEN.

This gathering took place, on the evening of Thursday week, in the Alexandra Music-hall, when about 3000 persons attended, to avail themselves of the opportunity of meeting Lord Brougham and of hearing addresses from several of the more prominent members of the association. The admission was by ticket; but only two individuals belonging to the working classes were upon the platform—namely, John Wilson, a grinder, and Henry Turner, a manager of works, who has risen from the ranks. Lord Brougham, who seemed much affected by the heartiness of the welcome accorded him, delivered a short introductory speech to the audience, in which he dwelt on the importance of making working men's homes comfortable to themselves and to their families, as a measure lying at the root of all social improvement, and claimed credit for having in all his intercourse with the operative classes told them plain truths and given them sound, useful advice. The proceedings thus opened were prolonged until a late hour, speeches in unison with the objects of the association being delivered by many gentlemen. Three of these were of special interest, from the fact that the speakers were all young members of the Parliament just elected—owing their election in some measure to the favour of working men. Their remarks, therefore, might fairly be regarded as indicating by anticipation the course which, on particular questions, they were likely to adopt in the House of Commons. Mr. Chambers spoke with the earnestness and fluency which secure for his remarks a favourable hearing from public assemblies, and, insisting on the advantages of education, he so adapted his arguments and illustrations to the audience he was addressing that at every few sentences he was interrupted by their acclamations. Mr. Hughes marked out for himself a different line, running *contra* to the feeling of his auditory in a very remarkable manner, and to an extent that required, even from him, no ordinary amount of daring. Speaking in the very central district and stronghold of trade unions, he did not shrink from using such language as the following:—

The difficulty which had stood in his way was that this had been constantly thrown in his teeth—"Oh, have you heard of the last trade outrage in Sheffield? Have you heard that a house has been blown up with gunpowder, and that another man's wife and child had been attacked because he did not? Did not that? Because he did not obey the laws of a union of which he was not even a member?" (An ironical "Oh, oh!") If trades unions were to fight the battle of the working men, they must set their faces against practices such as this (Cheers). Addressing an audience of Yorkshiremen, he asked them to hear him patiently, and hear what were the reports of the doings in this town; and then, if they could contradict those statements, let them do so. Let them say, "These outrages are things of the past; in the future you shall hear no more of them. We will fight our battles henceforth in an honourable, straightforward, and Christian manner." Well, now, he had heard a few things of Sheffield. The men of this town lived in the very heart, in the midst of the intelligence of England, and, as working men, they received the highest rate of wages; and yet he was told they were opposed to the introduction of machinery, whereby they were driving away from the town a large branch of industry for which they had been celebrated for hundreds of years. (General cries of "No! no!" and "Order!") Well, he was brought up in an agricultural district, and was just old enough to remember the machine-breaking which took place in that part of the country. Those acts of folly produced a sad amount of destitution and misery; but by-and-by the men found out their mistake, and now there were reaping-machines and threshing-machines working all through the district, and what was the result? That wages had risen 50 per cent since the introduction of machinery. He would warn the men of Sheffield, if they were opposed to machinery, that there could be only one result—that they would drive the industry of the town into towns where the men were not so shortsighted (Applause). Then he had heard that there was a rule of the trades unions to this effect, that no man should wear a beard or moustache (Laughter). If that were so, he could only say that it was a very ill-advised step, inasmuch as there were trades in Sheffield which affected the lungs, and in which it would be of the most vital importance that the men should wear the hair which God had given them upon their faces (Applause). If they had not such a stupid rule as that he should be delighted to be enabled to contradict it. Then he heard that there were rests used, the use of which was enforced by the trade, but the effect of which was to double up the man's arm and make it useless after a few years, while they had a rest which produced no such results, and which, if used, would enable a man to work ten, fifteen, or twenty years longer. If that were not true, let them contradict it. To his mind, it was necessary that he should, in this great centre of trades unions, where they had it nearly all their own way, tell them the plain truth; and in so doing he repeated, with regard to machinery, that if what he had heard were true, they had adopted a course by which they would gradually lose the confidence of the best part of their fellow-countrymen, and by which they would not hold their own in the great industrial race of the country, unless the men confined trades unions to laying down laws for their own members, and did not meddle with those outside.

The delivery of these home truths, coming, above all, from the quarter from which they proceeded, exercised an effect upon the body of the assembly very much as if a live shell had dropped into their midst. Some leaders of influence among the working men were obviously urged by their fellows to stand forward with an explanation, and towards the close of the meeting it was understood that a request had been forwarded to the platform that some of the working men should be at liberty to offer a few remarks in reply; but it was then too late, except in regard to the two working men on the platform, who were subsequently allowed to say a few words, the working men's representatives in general being invited to read papers and take part in the ordinary proceedings of the congress.

The speech immediately following that of Mr. Hughes was in a very different tone and temper. This was delivered by Professor Fawcett, who, apparently thinking that the working men required some soothing words after what had just been said in their presence, entered upon a glowing description of what the condition of the workman should be as distinguished from what it is.

In reply to Mr. Hughes, John Wilson appealed to the masters whether it was not true that the reason why the file-cutting machine did not come into use in Sheffield was, that it had been tried thirty years ago and found wanting. If the French files and these machine-files were so good, why, he asked, is it that they are not used, and why is there such a great demand for Sheffield hand-cut files? Henry Turner, too, denied the accusation as to the outrages upon fellow-workmen not obeying the union, and explained these instances as exceptional ones. He claimed for the workmen, as for any other class of the community, that they should not be judged by those cases of crime committed by individuals of violent and uncontrollable dispositions, whom it was impossible to exclude from workshops.

The congress has likewise found some tough work with the masters in Sheffield about the health of the workmen's dwellings. There was quite a lively discussion on this subject before Dr. Lankester, who presided in the health department, and in presence of Lord Brougham. Mr. George Godwin had the temerity to slander the stream of the River Don; he called it a black ditch—a common sewer, and laid against it the charge of making him seriously ill while at the hotel upon its banks. A champion for the black Don rose upon him in the person of Mr. Alderman Saunders, but he could only say that the waters of the Don were not good for manure; and as to the wretched dwellings of the poor, they were not as bad as

those around Mr. Godwin's offices in London, and they were quite good enough for the people who lived in them. The explanation given of the death-rate of Sheffield being so high as 34 in the 1000 was not much better; it was, that if parts of London were taken it would be found that they had a death-rate as high as this. It appears that there is no medical officer of health in Sheffield, only an inspector of nuisances; and the Corporation are more careful about the increase of a farthing in the pound of the rates than they are about the improvement of the dwellings of the workpeople.

SKETCHES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER

A BUSH FIRE.

GENERALLY speaking, parts of the country situated about fifteen or twenty miles from any of the larger cities is called, in Australian parlance, "the bush." It signifies the same as speaking of the country in England, although we often wonder why some more explicit term has not been adopted to distinguish the cultivated from the wild parts; for even to residents it is often a difficulty to determine what a person means by saying he is going into the bush, for you are left entirely to your own conjectures as to whether he is going fifty miles or five hundred, it meaning, as we have before said, any part a short distance from a large city or seaport.

The Australian bush possesses one feature dissimilar to any other country in the world—viz., its extraordinary similarity throughout. It seems, even to a close observer, as though he was wandering about in a thicket of timber of the same species in England. Last year we travelled overland from Sydney to Melbourne, being compelled to lengthen the distance to nearly 2000 miles, during which we naturally passed through an immense space of wooded country, and were struck with the great sameness in the timber. Certainly there are some few variable species characteristic of New South Wales, which somewhat relieve the monotony; but, generally speaking, the common red gum (genus *Eucalyptus*), confined exclusively to Australia, predominates. The undergrowth consists mostly of wild, rough-looking fern; long, rank grass; and tall, tea scrub, growing over masses of fallen timber, either blown down or the remnants of bush fires, one of which our Engraving is intended to portray. These fires occur in the summer months, mostly from November until March, after which the autumnal rains commence and saturate the grass sufficiently to prevent conflagrations, which in many instances must arise from spontaneous combustion, as they often occur in parts where no one is likely to have penetrated; therefore they could not have arisen by sparks from a pipe or match, as is often the case in other instances. Neither could they have arisen from reflection off a bottle, which also fires the grass occasionally. The fact that no flint of any description is visible in districts where these fires have commenced, goes still further to substantiate our assertion that bush fires often arise from spontaneous combustion. In fact, we can scarcely wonder, after an absence of rain for a couple of months, with the thermometer ranging between 100 deg. and 200 deg. in the shade, that a quantity of carbonized timber, on becoming dried almost into touchwood, should ignite under a burning sun, and that the fire should spread with great rapidity, when taking into consideration that the various lakes, water-courses, &c., formed by the rain of winter, have become dried up by the combined influence of sun and hot winds, the latter being one of the worst climatic visitations to which Australia is liable. The north wind of summer, strong, steady, dry, and hot in its character, is a frequent visitor; and being generally succeeded by an equally strong southerly breeze, fresh off the ocean, the thermometer falls within a few hours, occasionally within a few minutes, through a range of from 20 deg. to 30 deg.

The temperature during the hot winds ranges usually between 80 deg. and 100 degrees, depending for its degree of intensity upon the period of the summer in which it occurs, and the state of the country as to moisture. If the country has been previously well moistened with rain, this wind is not disagreeable, but if it continue for two or three days, as this northerly breeze is apt to do under such circumstances, it becomes gradually more dry and hot as the surface moisture disappears under its influence. Having now acquired the characters and effects of a hot wind, there is called into operation these meteorologic influences that appear unfailingly to ensure a refreshing change. The cool southerly breeze is ushered in, and with it, in general, although not always, a return of rain.

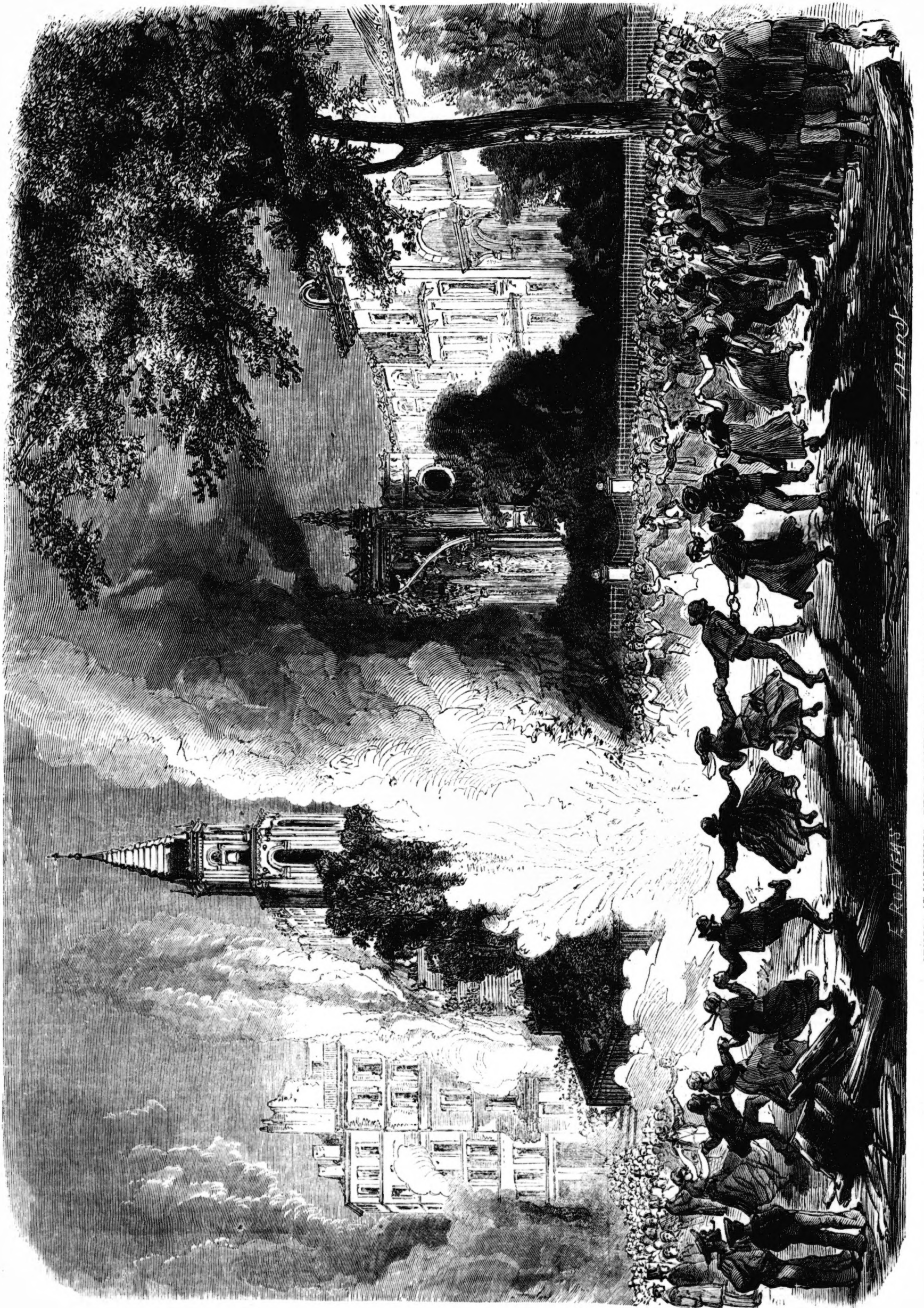
The hot wind is felt most oppressively when it occurs after long periods of dry weather. Thus it is often very severe in February, the summer's sun having still its full power, and the country having had usually by that time a long period of dry weather. With the autumnal rains this wind loses its hot and dry character; and in winter the breezes from the north are not marked by any peculiarity. These winds, with the violent changes by which they are terminated, are of less frequent occurrence in the adjacent colonies; but, occasionally, in these warmer latitudes they are exceedingly severe. At Sydney and in the interior of New South Wales the thermometer in the shade has risen as high as 120 deg., and even 129 deg., as recorded by Sturt, on the occasion of his exploring the River Macquarie in 1827. The severest of these visitations on record in Victoria occurred on Thursday, the 6th of February, 1851—which has been ever since remembered under the designation of Black Thursday—when the thermometer ranged between 100 deg. and 110 deg. in the verandahs and other shaded parts of the dwelling-houses throughout the colony. The country, exceedingly dry from a long cessation of rain, took fire in many directions, the flames overrunning the grass, spreading among the trees with frightful avidity, and occasioning the loss of much property. Similar weather was experienced at the same time in the colonies of South Australia and New South Wales.

The cause of these hot winds and the source whence they are derived are points of some interest. The idea of a great inland Australian sea that long haunted the minds of Australian colonists did not promise any elucidation of the subject. The arduous expedition of Captain Sturt, in 1845, from Adelaide into the northern interior, at length threw light on the mystery. Instead of an ocean of water, that adventurous explorer found a boundless expanse of the most sterile desert—a veritable Sahara of the south—a waste of sand and stones, without a blade of grass or a visible drop of water. At the imminent hazard of his life, the traveller penetrated to 24½ deg. south, but without seeing any indications of an alteration in the physical aspect of the region. The hot wind comes over Adelaide from the north; it reaches Melbourne from about north-north-west, and Sydney from a direction still more westerly.

The locality of the desert is thus pointed to in common from all these different localities. A remarkable confirmation of the intimate connection of this desert with these hot winds was furnished by the traveller Leichardt during his overland journey, in 1844, from Moreton Bay to Port Essington. As his party advanced northwards the hot wind changed its direction from northerly to westerly, until in about latitude 20 deg. south, when, blowing for the last time (for it was never experienced further north), it had begun to come from the southward, blowing in the direction of west-south-west. These combined climate influences, then, are the causes of bush fires, which, in England, would be looked upon with amazement and terror; for the peculiar crackle noise, the falling of timber which the ruthless destroyer has partially consumed, the showers of sparks, smoke, &c., varied by the roaring and rush of wild animals and the screams of terrified birds, form a picture of grand excitement totally indescribable.

A. A. S.

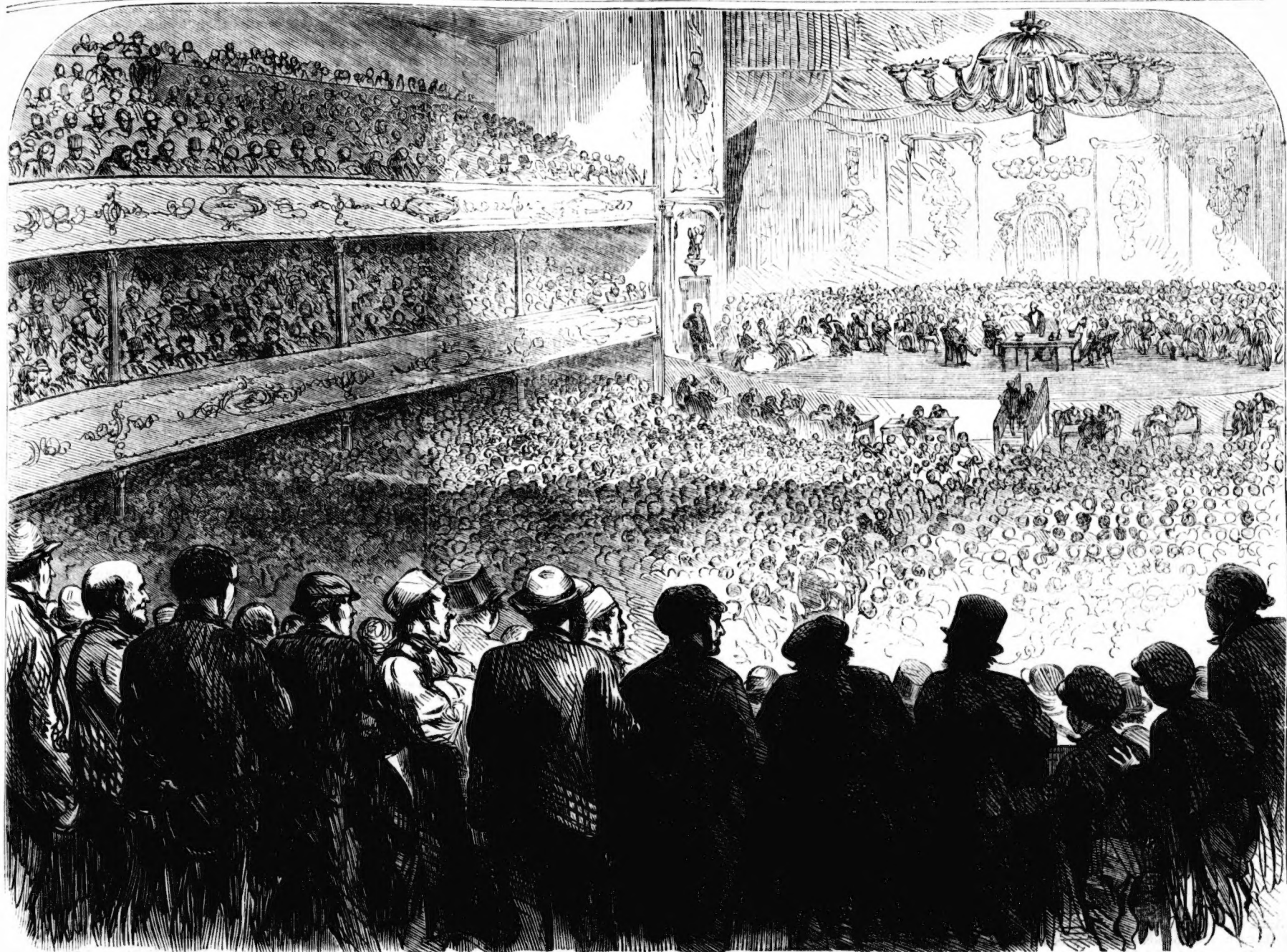
MR. BRIGHT ON THE GAME LAWS.—Mr. Bright, having been invited to attend a meeting of the Midland Farmers' Club, at which the question of the game laws was appointed to be discussed, has addressed a letter to the gentleman from whom he received the invitation in which he points out to the tenant-farmers the course which, in his judgment, they should pursue. He urges them to combine to secure the election of men who will really represent their opinions. He remarks upon the facilities they possess for united political action, and assures them that in their efforts to secure their independence they would receive the cordial support of the Liberals in the towns. The game laws, he thinks, cannot with advantage be modified—they must be wholly repealed; and the accomplishment of this object is within the power of the tenant-farmers themselves.



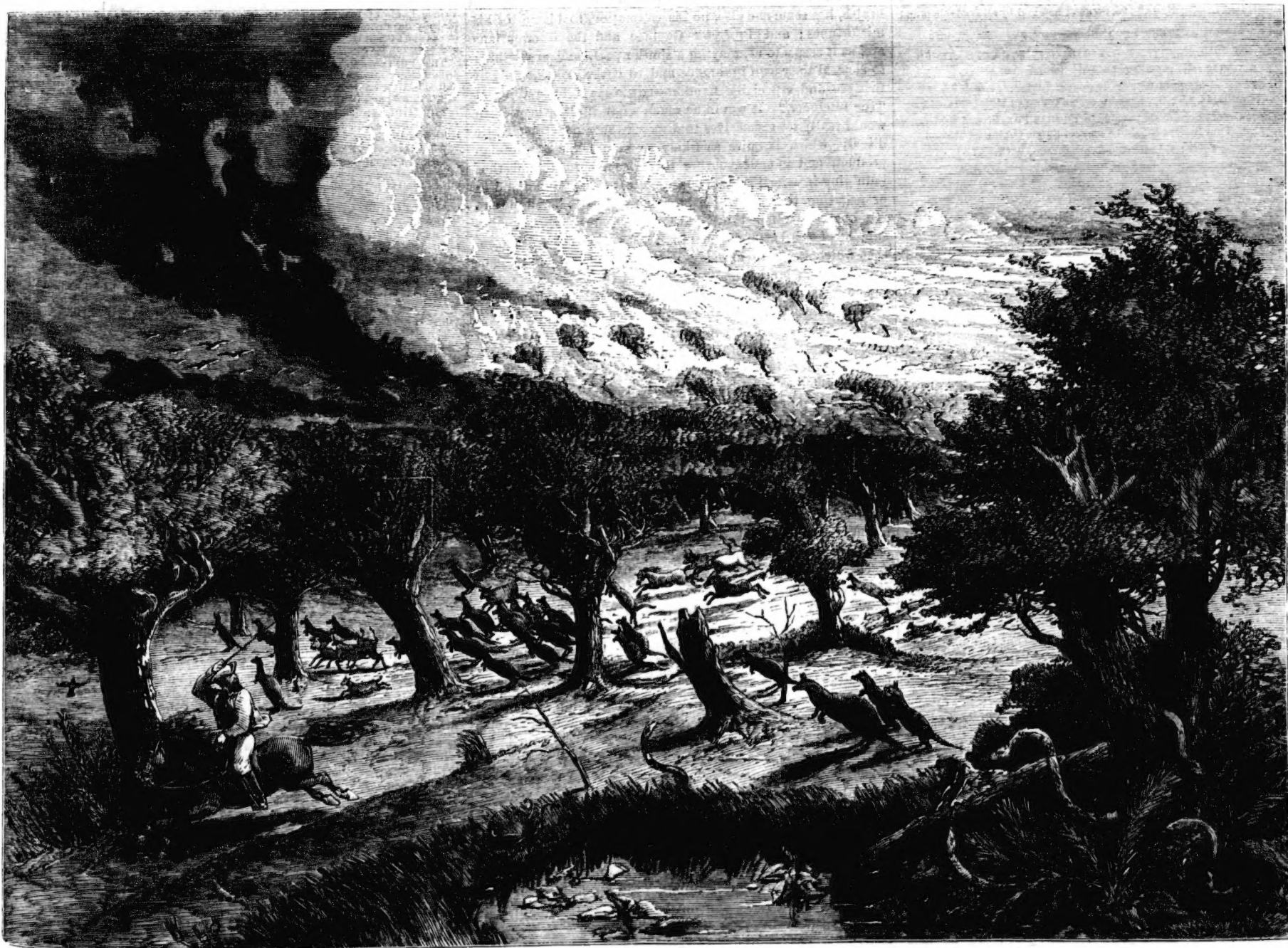
CHOLERA AT MARSEILLES: FIRES LIGHTED IN THE SQUARE OF THE OLD PALACE OF JUSTICE DURING THE EPIDEMIC.

ADAMS

F. ROYER



MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS WITH WORKING MEN AT SHEFFIELD.



A BUSH FIRE IN AUSTRALIA.

THE STREET BONFIRES IN MARSEILLES.

Who does not remember Mr. Dickens's wonderful description of Marseilles lying under the sun, that description which commences the first chapter of one of his most successful works, and, as a piece of word painting, has few equals in the English language? Thousands of people must lately have thought of it, and of the fervid, fiery, strange, capricious, fierce, wrong-headed Marseillais, and of that awful chant which bears their name, and bore with it a fierce and gloomy vengeance in the awful times of retribution. For we have had accounts of Asiatic cholera having reached the great French seaport, and tidings have reached us of the way in which the townsfolk have tried the antidote of great fires set a burning in the streets, and how those fires might have made one vast conflagration of the town itself, as the excitable people, wild with the strange spectacle, danced a sort of fantastic revival of the once terrible *carnagiale* round the lurid flames, and the lowest dwellers in foul lanes and alleys about the pestilential quays crawled out and sported like venomous insects in the blaze which lighted them to robbery and depredation.

Marseilles, which stands at the foot of a semicircular range of hills, is naturally divided into the old and the new towns—the former being built on an acclivity. The streets of this portion are as crooked and narrow as though their progress was uncertain between the great high houses by which they are ever shadowed; but the latter, which makes, perhaps, two thirds of the whole, has regular, wide streets and handsome well-built houses. The two portions, which are separated by the public promenade called the Grand Cours, are, in fact, as different as they can well be. The chief buildings of Marseilles are not very important in point of architectural beauty, and when we have named the churches of La Maja, St. Victa, and Charteux, the Hotel de Ville, the Prefecture, the Observatory, the Mint, and the two theatres, there is little left to refer to except the enormous Lazaretto and the triumphal arch on the Aix side of the city. One of the oldest, if not one of the most important, buildings, however, is represented in our Engraving. It is the old Palace of Justice, situated near the Rue Montée des Accoules, and in front of it one of the largest bonfires burnt until what was intended as a preventive against sickness, and probably answered its purpose, both by purifying the air and by providing some sort of amusement for the people, became the occasion of a series of wild fêtes; and from dancing with a sort of insane gaiety round and round the flame, some of the young townsmen began to let off squibs, crackers, and even larger fireworks, which threatened to make an end of the haunts of disease by burning them down altogether.

At length the municipal authorities were compelled to interfere, and the street bonfires, of which that represented in our Engraving was one of the largest, were extinguished, at all events until some sort of security against a general conflagration could be established. The epidemic, however, is now so greatly decreasing that the approach of cooler air and better sanitary regulations may soon restore the place to its ordinary condition, after which it may be hoped, for the sake not only of the Marseillais but also for that of the thousands of travellers who are continually coming to and going from the port, that much of the old town will be reconstructed, the whole system of sewage reformed, and a more intelligent system of protection adopted against the importation of disease.

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SOME SOCIAL TOPICS.

THE present system of administering the Poor Law is fruitful in abuses, especially in poor parishes. The poor are systematically frightened off from asking relief, and, to accomplish this, persons of—to put it mildly—stern manners and rough demeanour are appointed masters of workhouses and relieving officers. The parishes at the east end of London—the poorest in the metropolis—are continually furnishing instances of this. Nor is the fact much to be wondered at. The parishes composing, for instance, the East London Union are among the poorest in the whole capital; they have the largest number of paupers, who are continually recruited by draughts from the West-End; the rates are consequently excessively high; the ratepayers are themselves in many cases but little removed from the condition of paupers; the rates are extremely difficult to collect; and the consequences are that the guardians are compelled to exercise the utmost possible economy, and that, of course, the poor suffer. This East London Union and the conduct of its officers has within the last few days been the subject of two separate investigations. One of these took place before the Lord Mayor, where it was alleged that the master of the union workhouse had refused to afford relief to a woman, nearly blind, who applied for it on behalf of herself and her children, all of whom were in great destitution. Some of the woman's statements have been denied and her character has been impugned by the union authorities; but the fact remains that relief was not afforded when applied for. The other investigation was conducted by Mr. Farnall, Poor-Law Commissioner, and had reference to the conduct of the same official and to a quarrel between him and the medical officers, whom he accused of being wanting in respect to himself and his wife (the matron), said lack of respect consisting "more in acts

than in words." How this want of respect in acts was perpetrated did not appear, and is of little consequence. What we are now concerned with is the fact that the master of the East London Union appears to be in the habit of endeavouring to "choke off" the poor by throwing all sorts of impediments in the way of their obtaining relief, a practice which, we suspect, is common in other places as well as in the East London Union. On this subject Mr. Commissioner Farnall made some pointed remarks, showing that he fully believed the harsh usage complained of to be real and common. He said, "he wished it to be distinctly understood that when poor persons applied for relief they should have it before any questions were asked. When the poor people applied for relief they had a right to have that relief without questioning as to where they had slept last, and such like inquiries. It was to be understood that the relief was paid for by the whole of London, and under this system there ought not to be a beggar in the streets, and there would not if the spirit of the law were carried out. He earnestly desired to impress this upon relieving officers, and to advise them in all instances to give people relief before inquiring where they had come from." Now, we perfectly concur in Mr. Farnall's view as to the immediate granting of relief; but is it a fact that relief administered even to casual paupers is "paid for by the whole of London?" If this be so, it is a fact of which we were not previously aware; for we did not know that the poor's rate had been equalised all over London, except in so far as the support of the night-refuges is concerned. In fact, we hold that it is precisely the facts that the rates are not so equalised, and that the burden of maintaining the poor falls with peculiar heaviness on the least wealthy portions of the metropolis, that are at the bottom of all this "nagging" at and stinging of the poor. The best remedy, and the only effectual remedy, will be to extend the principle of the Union Chargeability Bill, passed last Session of Parliament, and compel the rich districts of the metropolis to assist the poorer ones in maintaining their paupers. Till this is done, the system of stinting and bullying the poor will be persevered in; complaints to the Lord Mayor and investigations by Poor-Law Commissioners notwithstanding.

The persistence of Professor Gamgee, who has again been airing his nostrums before the Social Science Congress at Sheffield, and others, in asserting that the cattle plague is of foreign origin, that it could only come from Russia, and could not possibly be originated in this country, is another specimen of the tendency of people to find a scapegoat for their own sins, and to blame the consequences of their folly or ignorance upon others. Every good-for-nothing fellow who fails in everything he attempts; every knave who runs into crime and receives his deserts in prison or on the gallows, is, if you will believe him, more the victim of others' faults than of his own; every fool who makes wreck of his fortunes and of his health, has some one else, in his estimation, to blame for his misfortunes; and Professor Gamgee and the veterinarians are, as it seems to us, playing a similar part, and are seeking to conceal their own ignorance and to cover over the folly of British—and especially London—cowkeepers by railing at "the foreigner." It would be much wiser if these gentlemen would really set themselves to discover the cause of the cattle disease, which is quite as likely to be a home as a foreign product, and in endeavouring to devise a cure, than in thus indulging in assertions which are not capable of proof and in propagating theories which have but a slender foundation to rest upon. We hope the Royal Commission will approach the subject of the cattle plague in a very different spirit from that which seems to animate Professor Gamgee and some of his veterinary brethren.

The remarks addressed by Mr. Hughes, M.P., to the men of Sheffield, though unpalatable, ought to be salutary. Sheffield is the head-quarters of trades-unionism; it is also the scene of continual trade outrages; and it is undeniable that some Sheffield operatives oppose the introduction of machinery and appliances which would both tend to cheapen production and to obviate the deleterious influences of the industries peculiar to the town. Trades unions may not ostensibly encourage these obstructions and outrages; but it is a fact that such obstructions and outrages are always co-existent with trades unions; and it is natural, therefore, to suspect a connection between them. Mr. Hughes will have done good service to the workmen of Sheffield if he has induced them to look these matters in the face, and, by pondering them, become satisfied that free labour, good machinery, and protection to their health, are the best friends of the sons of toil.

We rarely meddle with questions in which clergymen are concerned; but we cannot withhold entering our protest against the conduct of the Scottish clergy in reference to Sunday trains. A few weeks ago trains were commenced to be run on the railway between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and were so successful as to show that such accommodation was urgently needed. This has excited the wrath of the ministers, who denounce the proceeding, and all concerned in it, in the most unmeasured terms from platform, from pulpit, and in the press, so far as they can command it. It would, perhaps, be vain to expect liberality from the Scottish clergy as a body, though we know there are many exceptions; so we will not address ourselves to them. But we do hope that the laity of Scotland will make a stand for freedom on this subject, and make an effort to secure for the hardworking artisans of Glasgow and Edinburgh the opportunity of occasionally escaping from the unwholesome and smoky atmosphere in which they pass their lives to the green fields and fresh air of the country. Morality, and religion too, will be

better promoted by that means than by compelling them to remain at home and devote themselves to the indulgences to which they are generally believed to be somewhat prone.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

KING VICTOR EMMANUEL has conferred an annual allowance of 450*l.* on the son of Giuglini, the tenor, to facilitate his admission into a naval school.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF PORTUGAL left Biarritz for Bordeaux on Tuesday evening. They were accompanied to the railway station by the Emperor and Empress of the French.

A ROYAL COMMISSION to inquire into the cattle plague has been appointed, and has held several meetings in discharge of its functions.

GENERAL BEAUREGARD has taken the oath of allegiance and sued for pardon.

A PERPETUAL-MOTION MACHINE has been patented by a mechanic of Turin.

M. AUER is about to resign his appointment as principal of the Conservatoire of Paris.

SEVERAL WOODCOCKS were shot during the past week in the west of Cornwall.

PROFESSOR LONGFELLOW has recently completed an English blank-verse version of the "Divina Commedia" of Dante.

A FINE STATUE OF THE EMPEROR TRAJAN is said to have been found while excavating near the Villa Lavinia, in Rome.

CAPTAIN MAURY, formerly of the United States, and latterly of the Confederate Navy, has been appointed to the Mexican Observatory.

THE EARL OF DERBY is considerably improved in health, and is gradually regaining strength. Some short time must elapse before he can resume walking exercise, as he was much weakened by his recent attack of gout.

THE VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL to Colonel M'Murdo will consist in the rebuilding of his recently burnt-down house.

M. VICTOR HUGO is at Brussels, correcting the proofs of a volume of poetry, entitled "Les Chansons des Rues, et des Bois."

THE JOHN WILLIAMS, which has been built for the London Missionary Society, was launched at Aberdeen last week.

BY THE DEATH OF THE EARL OF STRATHMORE the insurance companies have to meet a claim amounting to nearly £200,000. The Scotch offices are those principally concerned.

REAR-ADMIRAL EDWARD REEVES PHILIP MAINWARING died at Brighton, on the 5th inst., in his seventy-eighth year. He entered the Navy in 1799, attained his captain's rank in 1841, and was made Rear-Admiral on the retired list April 12, 1862. He saw forty-two years of active service.

THE CHOLERA is stated to have now completely disappeared from the whole Turkish shore of the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmora.

ARRESTS OF FENIANS continue to be made in various parts of Ireland, as well as a few in England. The persons arrested all belong to the non-influential classes. Several other prisoners have been committed for trial at Dublin and Cork.

A ROBIN was perched quietly on the banks of the Frome, at Dorchester, when it was attacked by a rat. The bird retaliated, however; and, after a struggle which lasted nearly three minutes, the rat was capsize in the stream, and was afterwards captured and killed.

THE PNEUMATIC RAILWAY, between Holborn and the Euston-square station of the London and North-Western Railway, is now complete, and was opened on Tuesday by the passage of two trucks, which ran the distance—about a couple of miles—in five minutes.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have decided upon issuing to all her Majesty's ships on foreign stations, for the use of the crews, a certain number of weekly papers and monthly publications.

HAWICK HAS BEEN VISITED BY A PLAGUE OF FLIES; for two days so dense was the cloud of insects that passengers could only prevent their mouths and eyes from being filled by keeping up a constant process of fanning.

ASIATIC CHOLERA is reported to have broken out with considerable virulence at the village of Epping, Essex.

A COUPLE whose united ages reached no less than 164 years were married at St. John's Church, Pembroke Dock, on the 4th inst. The bride was Mrs. Elizabeth Powell, aged eighty-four, who had been married four times before; and the bridegroom was Mr. T. Wade, who is, we believe, only four years younger than his wife.

MR. KENNETH MACLEAY, R.S.A., is at Balmoral, painting the Queen's granddaughters, Princesses Victoria and Elizabeth of Hesse, for her Majesty. Prince Louis of Hesse is also sitting to Mr. Macleay for his portrait. Her Majesty has expressed to the artist her approval of the pictures of the High-landers of Deeside and Strathdon, painted by Mr. Macleay, during the summer and autumn, by command.

THE FENIAN QUESTION has already, it is said, been made a subject of diplomatic communication between Sir Frederick Bruce and Secretary Seward, and the latter has been asked for an explanation of the various Fenian movements in all parts of the country.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY are at present surveying the country between Settle and Carlisle, with a view to promoting, in the ensuing session of Parliament, a bill empowering them to make an independent line to the Border city.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM AT WARSAW—a Government institution, of course—has recently been visited by the police. On this occasion some fifty out of the 144 patients were discovered to be political offenders who had fled for refuge to the abode of madness, and spent already a couple of years within its terrible walls. The physicians have been arrested, together with the delinquents.

THE VATICAN has been in great commotion in consequence of a complaint made by Mr. Severn, the English Consul, against two Zouaves accused of having insulted a lady with whom he was walking at the Villa Torlonia, in Frascati. It appears, too, that a packet of despatches addressed to the Consul was lately taken possession of by the Roman police, who obtained them from a railway official intrusted with their delivery at Frascati.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Rev. J. B. McCaul, at the Church Congress, asserted that there are twenty-nine millions of immoral publications annually sold in England. This is a vague assertion. One would like to know how Mr. McCaul arrived at the number, and what, in his opinion, is an immoral publication. I am afraid that he only roughly guessed at the number, and that he stamped certain publications as immoral simply because they were opposed to his views or were repugnant to his taste. Twenty-nine millions! It is a vast number—over half a million a week. I must think that there is some mistake; and I suspect that the mistake would be found in the classification. Our Puritan forefathers used to stigmatise all plays and novels as immoral. In the first quarter of the century Tory country gentlemen and High-Church parsons always associated Radicalism with infidelity. I have heard Carlyle denounced as an Atheist, and, of course, immoral; and only a few days ago I read a speech, delivered by a clergyman, in which the criticisms of Colenso were denounced as blasphemous and infidel. When a violent Churchman denounces men as immoral, it is often only his way of anathematising opinions different to his own. I may here say, by-the-way, that in all ages, except the earliest, the clergy have been far more tolerant of real immorality than of heresy; and it is so in other than Christian churches. Mr. Palgrave got into a conversation in Arabia with a sage or a priest, or, at all events, a moralist; I really forget exactly the office of the man. This moral teacher was raving over the cardinal sins. Some of these have escaped my memory; but one was smoking tobacco. All the sins which he enumerated were adjudged to call for the severest penalties. Whereupon Mr. Palgrave asked what punishment he would award to murder, adultery, &c.; to which this was the answer made—"The Church (Mohammedan) deals lightly with light offences." It is clearly necessary, then, Mr. McCaul, that we should have your definition of immorality before we can accept your figures. My own opinion is that since the flood of good periodicals—well, say reasonably good—set in, the circulation of really immoral publications has very much decreased; and I think that this is a result which we might have expected.

The Rev. T. Cloughton finished his speech with this puzzling sentence, "We now want more godly bishops, more faithful pastors, more conscientious patrons." Now what does the good man mean? Does he want bishops that are more godly, pastors that are more faithful, patrons that are more conscientious than any that we now have? or does he mean that some of the bishops, pastors, and patrons are all that could be desired, but that others are not? or does he simply mean that all are good, but we want a larger number? Nobody can tell what he means. I was disposed to

think he meant that merely the numbers should be increased. But when I came to the conscientious patrons I was at fault.

However, one thing is certain; there was at the meeting a unanimous cry for more bishops. And by all means let the Church have more bishops; but, mind you, the Church must pay the salaries; and we must not have more bishops in Parliament; fewer rather than more. I should say, though I fear Mr. McCaul will stigmatise the ILLUSTRATED TIMES as immoral, if he should see such a sentiment in its columns. As to the salaries, I, if I had the power, would soon obtain money enough for them. There are in England and Wales twenty-eight Bishops; their aggregate incomes amount to as near as may be £167,600, or about £6000 each on the average. They vary, of course. The Archbishop of Canterbury gets £16,000; York, £10,000; Bishop of London, £10,000; Winchester, £10,417; and the rest get from £4000 to £5000, except the Bishop of Exeter, who, poor, miserable man, has only £2700. Why he was dealt with so negligently when the episcopal salaries were rearranged I cannot tell. Now, my plan would be to squeeze out of these bishoprics enough for fifty bishops, suffragan or otherwise, at £2000 a year each. I mentioned this plan to Mr. Bagg the other day, and he was in ecstasies with it. "By Jove!" said he, "it's capital. That would give them all about £2000 a year each; and it's quite enough, Sir, quite enough. A man may live like a gentleman on £2000 a year. And as to their families, they must take the chance of their fathers having property. And, mind you, very few clergymen are appointed to bishoprics who have no property of their own." "Of course," said I, "this reduction would tend to lower their dignity, as in these times and in this wealthy country dignity goes with money." "Dignity be bothered! I once heard of some wise old fellow who, when somebody talked to him about the dignity of the Church, replied, 'Take care that you don't kill the Church with dignity.'" "Bless!" said I, "Like many of your party, you are Radical at heart." "No, Sir, I am a Liberal-Conservative. I am, as they say in election addresses, 'against rash changes; for reform, but not for revolution, and have no objection to eradicate proved abuses.'" That's the style, isn't it?" said he, flourishing his cane.

Speaking of the Bishops, reminds me that Mr. O'Malley, the barrister, in answer to a speech by the Bishop of St. Andrew's on the union of the foreign Churches with the Church of England, protested against the idea that the English Church would not unite with foreign Churches who have no bishop. Simple man! Does he not know that without a bishop, a regular successor of the Apostles in a right unbroken line, there can be no true ordination, and without ordination no baptism, and, consequently, no Christians? And how can we unite with people who are not Christians? True, the Greek Christians are a queer lot, some of them—King Theodoros, for example, the Abyssinian potentate. But regular baptism, by a clergyman regularly ordained by a bishop descended from the Apostles, covers a multitude of sins. We might unite with King Theodoros, Sir; but with Dr. A'ubigne, or Chalmers, or Irving, if they could come again to earth, by no means! Mr. O'Malley said something about holding out the hand of fellowship to all who "love the Lord;" but such strange, antiquated doctrine met with little sympathy, as Mr. O'Malley might have expected.

The Bishop of St. Andrews, a Scotch Bishop, and, by-the-way a disenter north of the Tweed, uttered a remarkable prophecy. He looks forward to the time—can see it in his mind's eye, he thinks—when the United States will arrive at the consummation which he believes to be their duty, and their interest, and privilege—viz., the union of their Church with the State. Sanguine Bishop!

Archdeacon Denison, brother of the Speaker—if you care to note that fact—old Fire-the-Fagot, as he may be now called, as he would be if he had the power—is for no more concession to Dissenters. They have had enough—too much, he thinks; and he would concede no more. The Church is, or ought to be, supreme; and Dissenters ought to be satisfied to be "tolerated." Clearly, though, he would not tolerate them if he could help it. He longs for the time to come again when the Church held the sword and the State was but its servant. But never will that time come again, your Reverence.

News comes to us from Scotland, per *Edinburgh Courier*, that the Right Hon. James Moncreiff, the Lord Advocate, is to be the Speaker of the new Parliament. But this is surely a mere canard. At the close of the last Session it was rumoured that the Speaker would not resume the chair, but would take his pension and go up to the House of Peers as Viscount Ossington; and I said then that, if the Government should get a majority, I thought it probable that Mr. Denison would be rather inclined to retire; but that, if the Government should be weakened by the general election, he would certainly not be so ungracious to the Government as to force it to fight for the chair, with a doubtful prospect of success. The Government has increased its majority; and it may be thought by some that Mr. Denison, now that Lord Palmerston is quite sure of the election of one of his friends to the chair, will resign; but I hear, on very good authority, as I think, that he will not. But, if he should, I cannot think that the Lord Advocate will be selected as Mr. Denison's successor; indeed, I never heard his name mentioned before. This is, however, no reason why he should not be the man. He is well qualified; he is in the prime of life; and there is at least no precedent for choosing a Scotch member, Mr. Abercrombie, who was, like Mr. Moncreiff, member for Edinburgh, and was elected in 1835.

Some constituencies seem to act in a very odd way, until we get behind the curtain and see the secret springs of their actions. Youghal, in Ireland, is an example. Mr. Isaac Butt has represented Youghal since 1852. For the last ten years, more or less, Mr. Butt has been under a cloud. There was never anything very wrong laid to Mr. Butt's charge as regards his political conduct. He got into some difficulty about some injured Indian Prince, whose cause he took up some years ago. An attempt was made to prove that he had taken money in return for his advocacy in Parliament, but he came safe out of that charge. His chief difficulties were of a private character, arising out of want of money, and which he could, with his talents, at any time have remedied. But not long ago Mr. Butt roused himself, shook himself free of his difficulties, and now, according to all accounts, is earning a splendid income; has, in short, stepped to the head of the Irish Bar, and has more briefs than, with all his revived energy, he can quite attend to. Well, just at this point, Youghal, which bravely stuck to him through all his difficulties, has deserted him, and taken to her arms a Mr. McKenna, also an Irish barrister, but unknown to Fame. But I am told that Mr. McKenna has a very insecure seat, and that a Committee of the House will certainly upset it, and thus give the Youghals a chance of recalling their old and able member; and I, for one, wish that it may be so, for Mr. Butt, to my mind, is one of the ablest lawyers that ever sat in the House.

There is also to be a petition against the return of Sir Robert Clifton for Nottingham. For the representation of Nottingham there were three candidates—Mr. Paget, and Sir Robert, the old members, and Mr. Samuel Morley, the well-known wholesale hosier, of Wood-street, Cheapside. Mr. Morley went down to Nottingham to fight Sir Robert, and he got in, but he did not turn out Sir Robert but Mr. Paget. There were very questionable doings at Nottingham. Intimidation; riot, in which houses were gutted and life endangered; and bribery; and all these things are laid to the charge of Sir Robert, and he is to be brought to book before a Committee of the House of Commons; and it is confidently asserted that he will be ousted from the seat which he obtained in this rough and improper way. Sir Robert is an eccentric character. He was not long since an outlaw. But then, what of that? So was Robin Hood, as Sir Robert told the Nottingham roughs, to their great delight, when this charge was flung at him as he stood upon the hustings.

So, here is our friend the *Telegraph* tripping again. The first leader in that journal on Wednesday commences with the following sentence:—"Men live fast in these times of ours, and many people may perhaps be surprised to learn that somewhere in the Palaces of the Eternal City a deposed Sovereign exists, who calls himself Francis II., by the grace of God King of the Two Sicilies and of Jerusalem, Duke of Parma and Piacenza, Hereditary Grand Duke of Tuscany." Since when, I wonder, did Francis, late of Naples, call

himself "Duke of Parma and Piacenza, Hereditary Grand Duke of Tuscany." On referring to the "Almanach de Gotha," I find that Robert-Charles-Louis-Marie de Bourbon, known as Robert I., and born in 1848, was Duke of Parma, Piacenza, and the States annexed, and was reigning there up to 1859, when he went off, or was kicked off by his subjects, in favour of King Victor Emmanuel, who now, as every one knows, governs these States as part of the kingdom of Italy. Again, the Hereditary Grand Duke of Tuscany was, up to 1859 also, not Francis II. of Naples, but Ferdinand-Salvator-Marie-Joseph-Jean-Baptiste-François-Louis-Gonzago-Raphael-Reinier-Janvier, a Prince of the Imperial house of Austria, and having several other Austrian titles besides, and who was born in 1835, and abdicated in 1859. The ex-King of Naples has been several things in his time, but it was reserved for your contemporary to make him three several gentlemen rolled into one. This blunder of the *Telegraph* is as good as the famous one it made a few years ago when it upbraided the King of Sardinia for abandoning the glorious old emblem of his house—the "White Horse of Savoy," the *Telegraph*, of course, being unaware of the fact that it was a white cross which constituted the emblem of Savoy, while the white horse belonged to Saxony.

My lady readers who are artistically inclined should compete for the prize given by Messrs. Fuller, of Mortimer House, for the best original illumination on vellum (size of design 12 in. by 8 in.) of the Twenty-third Psalm. The subject is a splendid one for the purpose: eminently susceptible of the ornamentation in which the chrysographers of old delighted. The prize is seven guineas, and a copy on vellum of the prize composition is given to the second in merit. Further prizes for the best original composition on any subject and for the best specimen of original colouring are also awarded. Illumination is an art specially suited for woman's work, and its application might be greatly extended, so as to render it a remunerative employment of female labour.

I hear rumours of several "art" books to make their appearance. First and foremost stands the "Round of Days," the gift-books of Messrs. Dalziel, consisting of original illustrations and original text, contributed by the best pencils and pens. From the specimens I have been favoured with a peep at, I prophesy that it will be one of the choicest books that ever issued even from the Camden Press. A collection of the best pictures of *London Society* will form another Christmas volume. I hope the letterpress will be new. For fun and humour I don't think there will be a better book than the "Hatchet-Throwers"—the title is a joke in itself. Mr. James Greenwood—whose very name sets boys' eyes glistening—writes it, and the illustrations are by M. Ernest Griest, whose clever grotesqueries and spirited drawings of animals have for some time past attracted connoisseurs to Bear-street, Leicester-square. The *London Review*, a little while since, gave a cock-and-bull account of these drawings and their author, who, instead of being a Republican refugee, is a French gentleman whose genius was discovered and encouraged by his friend Mr. Lee, in whose window the drawings were first exhibited. I should recommend your readers to go and look over M. Griest's portfolio.

A startling photographic device is practised by Messrs. Walker, of 64, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square. The result is called the "binograph," or "trinograph," as the case may be. It presents upon the ordinary carte de visite plate two or three portraits of the same sitter. Great interest attaches to most of the pictures from their being portraits of well-known public characters. Thus we have Mrs. Stirling handing a shawl to herself; Mr. Charles Mathews, in his daily aspect, apparently lecturing C. M., the juvenile, on his fiscal irregularities; Miss Marie Wilton flanked on each side by Miss Marie Josephs; and Mr. Toole puzzled between a Paul Bedford on his right and another on his left. The accuracy, depth, and sharpness of the photograph are, nevertheless, preserved in each of the portraits. The range of Messrs. Walker's subjects sufficiently attest the reputation of the artists. The portraits appear to be those of almost every known celebrity, from the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, and the Bench of Bishops, to the entire metropolitan corps dramatique and that happy family of wits, authors, artists, entertainers, and critics collectively known as the Savage Club.

In reply to inquiries as to the cheap edition of Goldsmith's works (mentioned by me a week or two back), I beg leave to say that it is issued by Messrs. Griffin, of Stationers' Hall-court. I had, when writing previously, only just purchased a copy, and scarcely did justice to the excellence of the work. I find it contains a wonderful facsimile of a long letter by Oliver, also selections from his correspondence, and memoir of his life and works by Professor Spalding, besides numerous illustrations by John Gilbert and others. The cheap "Shakespeare" is known as the Globe edition, and may be had occasionally in Booksellers'-row, formerly Holywell-street, Strand, for 2s. 9d. I say "occasionally," for the demand exceeds the supply.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The October number of the *Popular Science Review* completes the fourth volume. Of course there is an article on "Atlantic Telegraphy" (which Mr. Robert Hunt writes), and there are some good illustrations. But the most interesting article in the number is one upon "Lake Basins." We do not even except—though we would willingly do so—a most admirable paper, by the editor, on "Photography and Some of Its Applications." The "Scientific Summary" is not so entertaining as usual, but that is nobody's fault. An editor cannot get up facts for such a department any more than he could get up murders and robberies for another department.

Two numbers of the *Anti-Teapot Review* are before me. This Review takes the teapot as the symbol of a good many objectionable things, such as "shams," "scandals," "asceticisms," "cant," "delusions." It professes to be a general "Anti-Humbog" organ:—

The genuine Anti-Teapot likes things done openly and above-board; he thinks a sanctified and, at least, conventional behaviour unworthy of those who wish to appear as they are, to set a really honest example to their inferiors, or to acknowledge their deficiencies by not aping a "holiness" which they never possessed. The A.T.R. is at once a decided protest against the unrealities and shams which characterise the nineteenth century. It does not wish to violate any domestic or other propriety, but "it heartily opposes itself to that which, whether we regard it on social, political, or religious grounds, is at variance with all correct ideas of English life, the life of English men and women, who are loyal subjects of the realm, and who wish to preserve sound and healthy the character and condition of English society."

This is very vague; but the reader of half a number soon finds out that the "A. T. R." has its own peculiar narrowness.

The *Victoria Magazine* makes praiseworthy efforts to keep up. Its reviews are always capital; and, indeed, though the general contents have lately been a little amateurish, it generally manages to give us one article of good quality, besides the "literature."

The *Sunday Magazine* begins a new series of papers called "Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood, by the Vicar," which have great merit.

The chief attraction of *Our Own Fireside* is the music. That is always good, and the present number is no exception.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The HAYMARKET opened its doors on Monday with "The School for Scandal" and "Lend Me Five Shillings." Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews are announced to appear in a new comedy written by Mr. Leicester Buckingham. Mr. Charles Mathews will first appear for a few nights as Sir Charles Coldstream, in which character he has thoroughly established himself in the good graces of the Parisians. On the last night of his engagement our volatile light comedian was feted, and a copy of verses written in his honour recited to him. The verses were not remarkably good; but I fancy that Mr. Mathews is the only English actor—except, perhaps, Garrick—who ever received such a compliment from our lively neighbours.

ASTLEY'S reopened on Monday night with a drama by Mr. John Brougham, written for the purpose of displaying the peculiar attainments of Miss Adah Isaacs Menken. "The Child of the Sun" (the title

of the new spectacle) is very well mounted. There is plenty of scenery, pomp, and splendour, but the piece is almost devoid of dramatic interest. Miss Adah Isaacs Menken is also very well mounted on a spirited charger, but the character—or, I should say, characters—she personates are somewhat tame. The rest of the actors struggle ineffectually with very commonplace parts, and I think it is an understood thing with theatrical habitués that Indians, planters, trappers, and tropical mise-en-scène, however effective in Cooper's novels or in the startling stories of Captain Mayne Reid, are not interesting on the stage. Mr. Buckstone, in his admirable drama of "The Green Bushes," is the only actor who ever thoroughly triumphed over what may be called settler life. The audience at Astley's, on Monday night, most irreverently "chaffed" some of the incidents of the drama, and Mr. E. T. Smith appeared before them in *propria persona*, and in a brief speech claimed their indulgence for the mishaps peculiar to a first night's performance; but, making every allowance for the "unrehearsed effects" that will obtrude themselves on the first representation of a spectacular drama, during which the mind of the master carpenter must suffer considerable anxiety, I do not think "The Child of the Sun" destined to be a success. I should mention that Miss Menken appears in several very picturesque and magnificent costumes, and that in each costume she is draped as much, and more, than usual with actresses when they assume male characters.

The British public is beginning to discover how truly great an actor is Mr. Jefferson. The ADELPHI is crowded nightly, and will be for many, many nights to come. "Rip Van Winkle" is the "tallest" sample of American acting ever seen on this side of the Atlantic, and if our Yankee cousins have more of this sort of article in the States the sooner they send it over in ships the better.

I spent an hour or two, on Tuesday evening, very pleasantly at the POLYTECHNIC, that wonderful abode of science and mystery, where bottled lightning in any quantity, and galvanic batteries whose slightest mismanagement would entail destruction, are handled with such perfect nonchalance that they might be the veriest toys. The rain poured down in torrents, but the institution was crammed. Professor Pepper is one of the most successful of our public entertainers, for he knows exactly how to gauge the popular taste, and in his pictures provides just enough of science to interest without wearying his audience; he knows, moreover, from long experience, that the majority of people who go out for an evening's recreation would much rather be amused than instructed, and would infinitely prefer to listen to a good song or funny anecdote than be made ever so proficient in, say, Isomorphism (whatever that may happen to be) or any mysterious institution of the like kind. He is very ably assisted just now by Mr. J. L. King, who is an admirable lecturer; by Mr. Chatterton, whose performances on the harp are too well known to need description; and by a lady, who has a good voice and sings well. We must not forget, too, in speaking of the staff of the Polytechnic, to mention the indefatigable Mr. Cousens, whom everybody knows by this time, and who, with an amiability that is quite praiseworthy, seems ever ready either to be made a ghost of himself or to help to make a ghost of anybody else, to be locked fast into cabinets, or to undergo any penance whatever which will add to the amusement of the audience. The several lectures which have held possession of the programme for some months are now changed. The Ghost, of course, still occupies a place, but is now introduced in a little piece, called "The Poor Author Tested," in which some curious effects are arranged. The "wonderful optical illusion called Proteus" also is still to be seen. But the great lecture of the evening is that of Professor Pepper, on Polarised Light.

Want of space prevents me from giving an account of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul's clever entertainment at the EGYPTIAN HALL, to which I hope to do proper justice next week.

I am happy to announce the recovery of Mr. Sothern, who has again started for the provinces and resumed his professional duties.

Let me take this opportunity of correcting an error in the impression of last week. In the Theatrical Lounger these words occurred:—"It is a matter (as Mr. Toole says) of no consequence." I was quoting from "Dombey and Son," and meant to write "as Mr. Toole says." I hasten to remove any anxiety on the part of Mr. Toole's numerous friends and admirers. Most likely my own indefensibly careless scribbling caused the mistake.

THE FATE OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.—We have reason to believe that Austria and Prussia have come to an understanding at last on this subject. Austria will, we are informed, accept a pecuniary compensation for her share of the spoil; and Prussia may carry out her plan of annexation in her own way. Some steps are being taken on behalf of the populations thus disposed of to direct Earl Russell's attention to the pending arrangement—with what possible object we fail to conjecture.—*Star*.

VIOLENT STORM ON THE NORTH-EAST COAST.—During the last two or three days a storm of considerable severity has raged on the north-east coast, and the reports, from Shields especially, are more distressing than any we have received for a long time past. The Medora has been lost, with all hands, and this has been followed by other casualties almost as tragic. It is, however, gratifying to find that the life-boats of the National Association have done much to prevent that less of life which, but for their assistance, could not have been averted.

DEATH OF DR. CHARLES RICHARDSON.—The death has been announced, at the advanced age of ninety-one, of Charles Richardson, LL.D. The deceased, who expired, on the 6th inst., was the author of "A New Dictionary of the English Language" and other philological works. The greater part of his dictionary, which in authorities for the application of words is the most copious work of its class in the English language, and held in high esteem, was originally published in the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*, subsequently, in 1835, in monthly parts, and ultimately in two quarto volumes.

TORPEDO EXPERIMENTS AT CHATHAM.

ON Wednesday, the 4th instant, a series of experiments of some interest in connection with the new appliances of naval warfare took place, in the presence of the Duke of Somerset and other members of the Board of Admiralty, at Chatham. The object of the experiments was to test the effect of those formidable implements of destruction of which so much was heard during the progress of the late gigantic conflict in America. The invention which was tried on the 4th, with the aid and sanction of the Lords of the Admiralty, is due to the skill of Mr. Wood, an officer of the United States Navy, in conjunction with that of Mr. G. W. Beardslee, another American gentleman, who personally superintended these experiments. Mr. Beardslee had been engaged at Chatham for about a week previous in making the necessary preparations; and on Saturday last he deposited one of his large test torpedoes in the mud and sand off Gillingham Point, in the Medway, at the entrance to Chatham Harbour, there to remain until yesterday in readiness for demonstrating that prolonged immersion would not impair its explosive force. Near the same spot lay moored the hull of the Terpsichore, an old wooden 18-gun sloop of some 500 tons burden, which the Admiralty had placed at Mr. Beardslee's disposal, as a sort of *corpus vile*, upon which he might work his will; and not far off again from this devoted craft were ranged, at intervals, several specimens of torpedoes of varying destructive power, the efficacy of which was to be tested by less costly, as well as less practical, operations than the actual blowing-up of an actual man-of-war. It should be explained that the torpedoes used were of two kinds—the one called "electrical buoys" and the other "percussion," these respective names indicating the agency by which the explosion of the shell is produced. They were in both cases formed of hollow, water-tight cylinders, made of wrought iron, and varied in size and power. The largest were constructed to receive a charge of 440 lb. of powder and the smallest for a charge of 68 lb., the former being some 9 ft. or 10 ft. long and 1 ft. in diameter, while the latter were not above a third of that length, though of nearly an equal diameter. To each torpedo, or shell, a cylindrical float is attached to give it buoyancy; and when it is desired to submerge the shell to any particular depth before firing it, the rope connecting the two can be easily untied and adjusted.

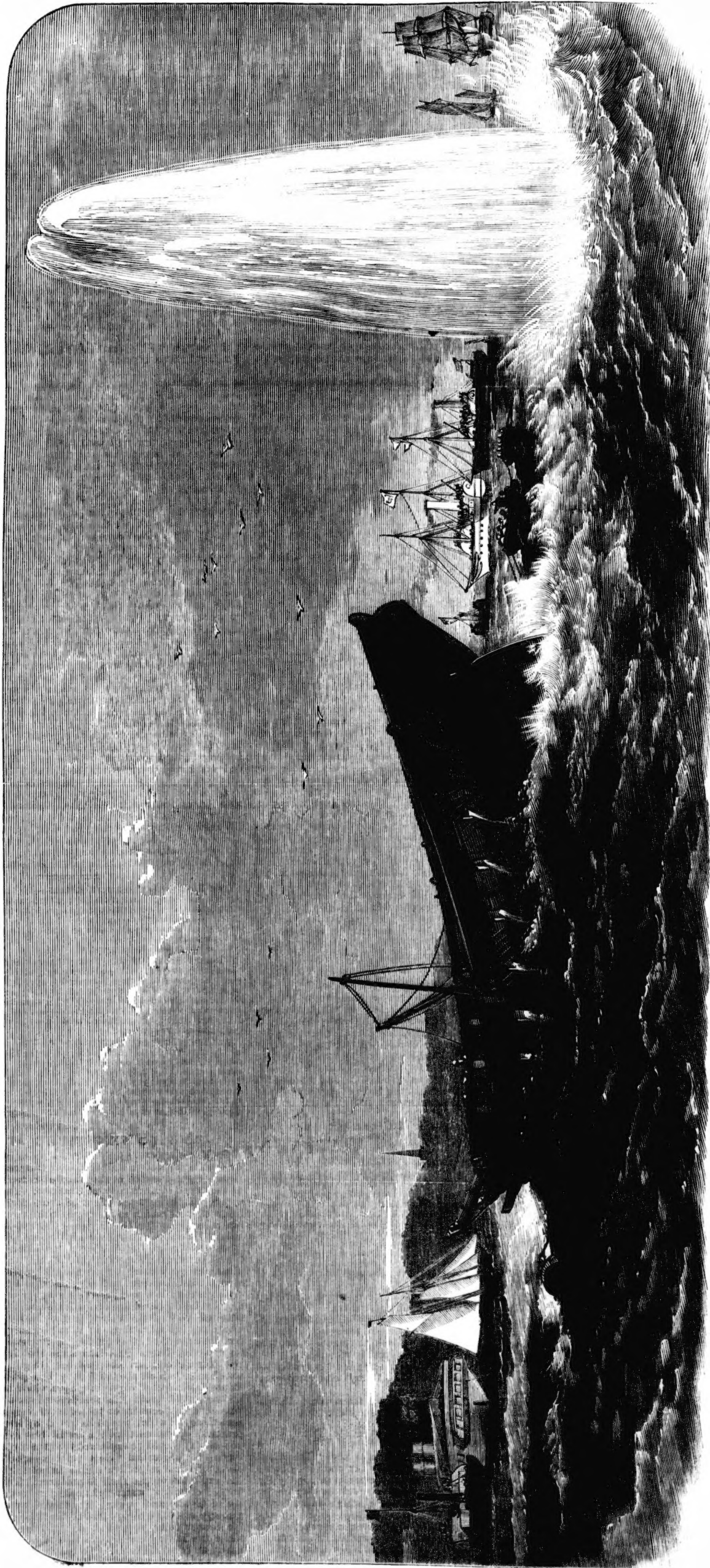
It was about two o'clock when the Admiralty yacht *Wildfire*, having his Grace the First Lord and a distinguished party on board, steamed from the dockyard pier for the scene of action, about a couple of

miles distant, and situate in the broadest and prettiest part of the Medway. Having taken up an excellent position for viewing the experiments at a few hundred yards from the barge on which Mr. Beardslee and his assistants were stationed with their electrical apparatus for igniting the shells, the signal was given for commencing. At a spot, indicated by a pole bearing a red flag, had lain submerged 15 ft. deep in the bed of the stream, as already stated, since the previous Saturday, one of the largest-sized torpedoes, charged with 440 lb. of powder. A boat's crew was dispatched from the operator's barge to establish electric communication with this sunken shell. This preliminary completed, and the train all ready for firing, in an instant there rose from the placid bosom of the river high into the air a huge column of water, in shape and action much resembling those great waterpouts occasionally witnessed by sailors in mid-ocean, and to which, though very

times the huge bodies of water tossed up were thrown laterally and diagonally rather than in a vertical direction, and consequently produced still wider circles of foam and mud than their predecessors.

But the most interesting experiment of the day still remained to be performed. We allude to the proposed blowing up of the *Terpsichore*, which was destined soon to execute quite as fantastic, though not as happy, a movement as any associated with her name. Being, however, a vessel literally without a history, never having once been put in commission since the day she was brought from the private yard at Blackwall where she was built to rot in the Medway like so many of her companions, there is little room for the indulgence of sentiment about her ignoble doom. Two 75-pounder torpedoes having been placed at a depth of some 7 ft. below her keel, towards her bows, and the signal given for transmitting the electric spark to their contents, a dull report was suddenly heard, accompanied with a visible upheaving and convulsive quivering of her whole frame. Simultaneously there was a loud and painful clanking and rattling of chains, as though every ounce of iron on board felt the death agony; cascades of water thrown on to her deck by the force of the explosion were seen rushing out again from her scuppers; and in much less time than it takes to tell the tale—for the whole thing was an affair of seconds—the *Terpsichore* was unmistakably settling forwards. In another moment her stern stood up at an acute angle, and her bow sank deeper and deeper. Not a fragment, however, of her timbers was seen to be detached from the rest of her bulk, not a splinter had been shot up into the air or had fallen off into the water, and she appeared to be going down bodily. The mischief she had received seemed to be a broken back; for she

and planking, the opening thus effected being somewhere about 10 ft. square. A close examination shows that few of the timbers are broken off, the separation being at their points of junction. Proceeding on board the frigate, the effects of the explosion are still more apparent, the planking of the main-deck, for a length of above 20 ft., being ripped up; while the deck-beams are broken in various directions and forced upwards to the upper deck. Even had the explosion not sunk her, the tremendous shock she sustained would have rendered her useless; while some idea of the effects of the shock may be formed from the circumstance that the whole of the iron knees on the port side which carry the upper-deck beams were wrenched and broken off. The frigate was inspected on Tuesday by a large number of persons, including several of the officers of the Royal Engineers. The *Terpsichore* will remain in dock until instructions have been received from the Admiralty respecting her; but the injuries she has sustained are such that she is only fit for breaking up.



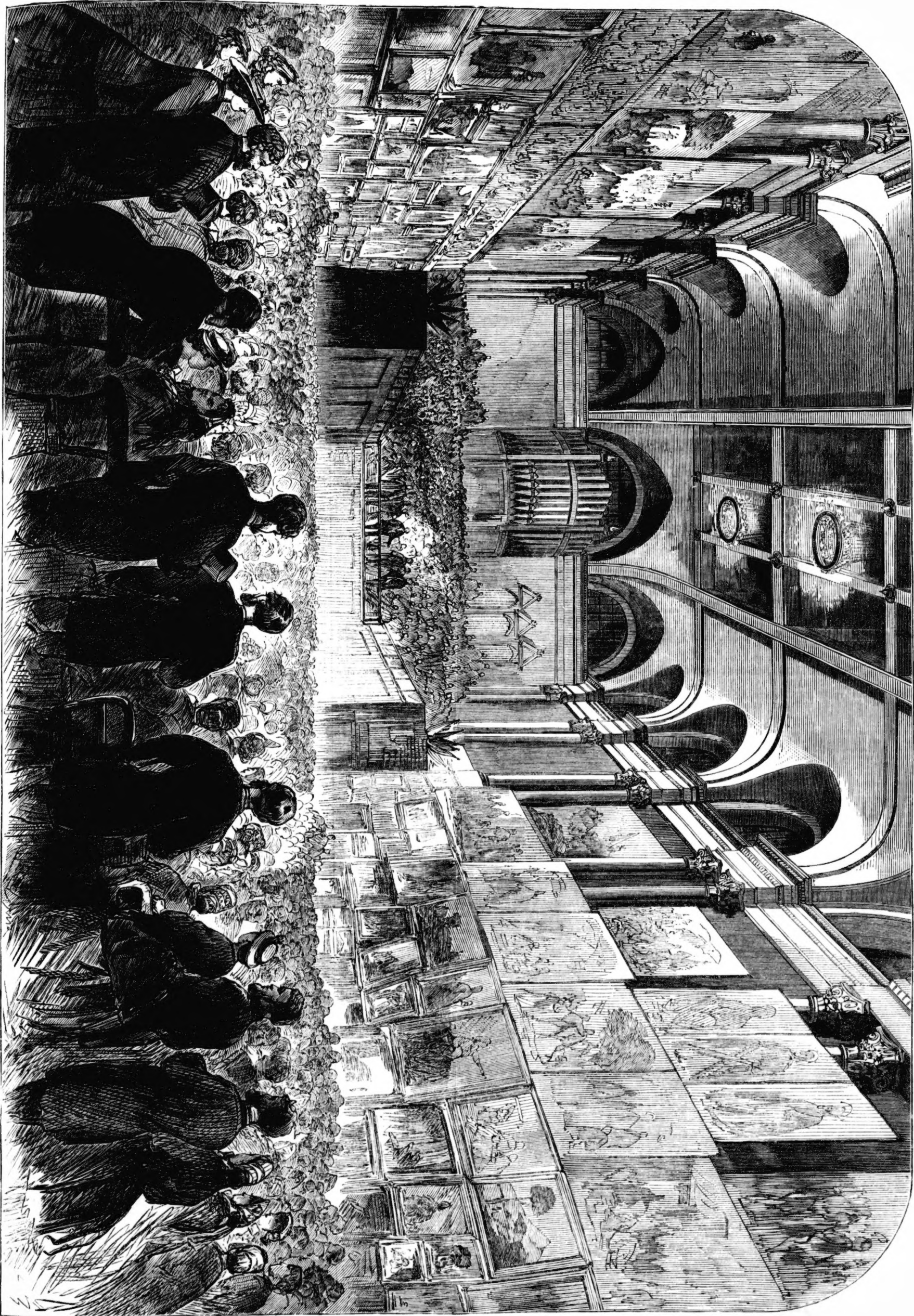
EXPERIMENTS WITH TORPEDOES IN THE MEDWAY: BLOWING UP OF THE TERPSICHORE, AND EXPLOSION OF ONE OF THE OTHER TORPEDOES.

still continued to go down by the head, until, in about five minutes from her first premonitory groan, she lay fast, aground in the Medway mud on an even keel, with the tide, now down to three-quarters ebb, up to within a few inches of her portholes. There was not now enough water entirely to drown her, or she would infallibly have been engulfed; but she was irretrievably wrecked, and the rising tide would in a few hours not leave a trace of her visible. Some of the uninitiated spectators were, perhaps, a little disappointed because there was not a more showy and, so to speak, theatrical dénouement. They had expected, possibly, to see the devoted craft shattered to atoms, and a thousand fragments flying swiftly through the air. But the torpedoes did their fatal work without any such superfluous parade; and it requires no great powers of imagination to call up before the mind's eye the terrible scene of confusion which such a sudden stroke would create in a ship of war equipped and manned for actual service. Hardly a soul on board, one would think, could in that case have been saved.

It appears pretty plain that vessels of war would find a channel or river planted with these treacherous implements very awkward navigation, as, by running foul of one of them that is fired by percussion, they might at any moment experience the fate of the *Terpsichore*. With regard, however, to boats going in under an enemy's fleet and quietly depositing these destructive explosives there, it could hardly be done at all if a sharp look-out were kept, except under cover of a dense fog or a dark night; and it seems tolerably clear that, under such circumstances, the operation would be about as hazardous to the assailants as to the assailed.

The *Terpsichore* was subsequently raised, and the operation of placing the old frigate in dock at Chatham, in order to permit an examination to be made to ascertain the extent of the injuries she sustained from the explosion of one of the torpedoes beneath her bottom, was effected late on Monday afternoon, the work being attended with considerable difficulty in

consequence of the frigate barely floating. Early in the day upwards of one hundred of the largest size empty barrels had been placed on her main deck, and these, on the rising of the tide, heaved to increase her buoyancy. Two of the largest of the mooring lighters were also placed at her stern and stern, and, with the assistance these afforded, she was safely hauled over the dock sill of No. 4 dock, the blocks of which had been removed so as to increase the depth of water therein. On Tuesday morning the water was pumped out of the dock, and, the frigate having in the mean time been shored up, the whole of her hull was exposed to view, allowing a careful examination to be made of her bottom by the dockyard officials. The injuries effected by the torpedo are all on the starboard side of the hull, slightly abaft the fore-chains, the port side of the bottom showing no injury whatever, with the exception of the loosening of a few of the sheets of copper. The full explosive force of the torpedo appears to have caught the frigate about 8 ft. upward from her keel, blowing in her timbers



AWARD OF PRIZES AT THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION: ADDRESS BY EARL RUSSELL.

AWARD OF PRIZES AT THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

A VERY interesting ceremony took place, on Monday night week, in the large concert-hall of the Dublin Exhibition building, in connection with the declaration of the awards of the jurors who adjudicated on the articles exhibited. As it was announced that Earl Russell would attend, great interest was manifested in the proceedings, which were attended by several thousand persons. The chair was taken by his Grace the Duke of Leinster. Among those present were Earl Russell, K.G., and Lady Russell; the Earl of Meath, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Howth, Lord Houghton, Lord Wilton, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Lord James Butler, the Lord Chief Justice, Sir James Donbrain; Sir Percy Nugent, Bart.; Sir George Hodson, Bart.; the Attorney-General; Mr. Charles Barry, Q.C., M.P.; Mr. Jonathan Pim, M.P.; Signor Marani, Italian Consul; Mr. William Donnelly, C.B.; Captain Meadows Taylor, Mr. William Dargan, Dr. Tuffnell; Mr. Lentaingne, Inspector-General of Prisons; Mr. F. W. Brady, Q.C., &c.

The chairman, who was received with much cheering, opened the proceedings with a few remarks, after which several of the jurors and members of the committee were introduced to the chairman and to Earl Russell.

The list of awards, which was very extensive, was then read.

The Lord Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to Earl Russell.

Earl Russell then came forward, and was received with loud cheering. He said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—If, in order to be entitled to your thanks, it were necessary to have any scientific knowledge of the beautiful objects of industry and art displayed in this exhibition, I certainly should not be entitled to that compliment; and, although the Lord Mayor has been pleased to say that, by the letters I wrote to foreign Governments, I assisted in promoting and facilitating the objects of the exhibition, yet I must say that that was no more than the simplicity of a member of the Government placed in the position I am. But there is another point which, perhaps, I may not inappropriately introduce on this occasion. I can tell you how delighted her Majesty, who takes such an interest in every exhibition of this sort, will be to hear of the complete success of this exhibition; and of that complete success I believe there is but one unanimous voice, not only throughout Ireland, but on the part of every person from foreign countries who has had the pleasure of visiting it. And now, after fourteen years' experience, we may see how much these exhibitions tend to excite interest, to promote industry, and to foster what we may call competitive examinations of the products and manufactures of different countries, and how much they tend to improve the taste, and, by comparison with other countries, to greatly facilitate each other in the work of improvement. In that respect there is no exhibition, I believe, that can surpass the present one. At least, I am sure, from the specimens I have seen of sculpture and of painting that adorn the walls of the exhibition, that it is one highly to the credit of those who have carried it out, and must have given satisfaction to all who take an interest in the progress of these arts. With regard to the success of the exhibition I will make but two observations. The one is, that it is necessary, for the success of such exhibitions, that the nations of the world should be at peace with one another. At a time when nations were at war with each other it would have been folly and worse than folly to have proposed any exhibition in which the various nations should exhibit their works of industry and art. It is likewise requisite for the success of these peaceful arts that not only should there be peace abroad, but that tranquillity should be maintained at home, because it is quite impossible to devote attention to industrial pursuits, and to cultivate and pursue those inventions which distinguish our age—those marvellous inventions by which we are enabled to travel so quickly over the whole space of the continent, and to convey our thoughts in a few moments over some 3000 or 4000 miles—these can only progress when there is internal tranquillity.

Sir Robert Peel then proposed a vote of thanks to the jurors in the several sections; and, after eulogising the manner in which these gentlemen had discharged their duties, concluded his remarks as follows:—

I propose a vote of thanks to the jurors of the several sections into which this exhibition has been divided; and I will, if not presumptuous, thank them in your name for the assistance they have given; and I will say more—that when the present season has passed over—when all the productions combined within this building have been separated, and taken to where they came from or elsewhere, that the recollection of these gratuitous services will live in the memory of all who have—and who has not?—taken an interest in the prosperity of the Dublin International Exhibition.

Some other gentlemen afterwards addressed the assembly; and the proceedings terminated about eleven o'clock.

THE PAPAL ALLOCATION AGAINST SECRET SOCIETIES.

THE following is the text of the allocation delivered by the Pope in secret consistory, on the 25th ult., against secret associations:—

Venerable Brethren,—Among the numerous machinations and artifices by which the enemies of the Christian name have dared to attack the Church of God, and sought to shake and besiege it by efforts superfluous in truth, most undoubtedly be reckoned that perverse society of men vulgarly styled Masonic, which, at first confined to darkness and obscurity, now comes into light for the common ruin of religion and human society. Immediately that our predecessors the Roman Pontiffs, faithful to their pastoral office, discovered its snares and frauds, they considered there was not a moment to lose in holding in check by their authority, and in striking and lacerating by a condemnatory sentence as with a sword, this sect, pursuing crime and attacking holy and public things. Our predecessor, Clement XII., by his apostolic letters, proscribed and rebuked this sect, and dissuaded all the faithful, not only from joining it, but also from promoting or encouraging it in any manner whatever, since such an act would entail the penalty of excommunication, which the Roman Pontiff can alone remove. Benedict XIV. confirmed by his constitution this just and legitimate sentence of condemnation, and did not fail to exhort the Catholic Sovereign Princes to devote all their efforts and all their solicitude to repress this most immoral sect and defend society against a common danger. Would to God that in so serious a matter they had acted less feebly! In truth, neither we nor our fathers would then have had to deplore the many seditious movements, the many incendiary wars, which have set the whole of Europe in flames, nor the many bitter misfortunes which have afflicted and still afflict the Church. But the rage of the wicked being far from appeased, Pius VII., our predecessor, struck with anathema a sect of recent origin, Carbonarism, which had propagated itself, particularly in Italy; and, inflamed by the same zeal for souls, Leo XII. condemned, by his Apostolic letters, not only the secret societies we have just mentioned, but all others of whatever appellation, conspiring against the Church and the civil power, and warned all the faithful to avoid them under penalty of excommunication. Nevertheless, these efforts of the Apostolic See have not had the success expected. The Masonic sect of which we speak has not been vanquished nor overthrown; on the contrary, it has so developed itself that in these troublous days it exists everywhere with impunity, and carries an audacious front. We have therefore thought it our duty to return to this matter, since, perhaps from ignorance of the guilty intrigues clandestinely carried on, an erroneous opinion may arise that the character of this society is inoffensive—that this institution has no other object than that of succouring men and assisting them in adversity; and that in this society there is nothing to fear for the Church of God. But who does not comprehend how this sect departs from the truth? What is the object of this association of men belonging to all religions and every belief? To what end those clandestine meetings and the rigorous oath exacted from the initiated, binding them never to reveal anything of what may be discussed? Wherefore that unheard-of atrocity of penalties and chastisements which the initiated bind themselves to accept should they fail to keep their oath? A society which thus avoids the light of day must surely be impious and criminal. "He who does ill," says the Apostle, "hates the light." How different from such an association are the pious societies of the faithful which flourish in the Catholic Church! With them there is no reticence, no obscurity. The law which governs them is clear to all; clear, also, are the works of charity practised according to the Gospel doctrine. Thus, it is not without grief that we have seen Catholic societies of this nature, so salutary and so well calculated to excite piety and succour the poor, attacked, and even destroyed, in some places, while, on the contrary, encouragement is afforded to secret Masonic societies, so inimical to the Church and to God, so dangerous even for the security of kingdoms. Venerable brethren, we feel pain and bitterness to see that when it is requisite to rebuke this sect, according to the constitutions of our predecessors, some persons show themselves indulgent, almost apine; whereas, in so grave a matter, the exigencies of their functions and their charges demand that they should display the greatest activity. If these persons think that the Apostolic constitutions fulminated under penalty of anathema, against occult sects and their adepts and abettors, have no force in the countries where the said sects are tolerated by the civil power, they are assuredly very greatly in error. As you are aware, venerable brethren, we have already rebuked, and now anew rebuke and condemn, the falsity of this evil doctrine. In effect, can it be that the supreme power of pasturing and guiding the universal flock which the Roman Pontiffs received from Christ in the person of the blessed Peter, and the supreme power they must exercise in the Church, should depend upon the civil power, or could they for any reason be constrained and done violence to thereby? Under these circumstances, for fear lest youth and unthinking men should allow themselves to be led astray in principle, and for fear our silence should offer them an opportunity of protecting error, we have resolved, venerable brethren, to raise

our Apostolic voice and confirming here in your presence the constitutions of our predecessors, on the part of our Apostolic authority we rebuke and condemn this Masonic society and the other societies of the same description, which, although differing in form, tend to the same end, and which conspire overtly or clandestinely against the Church or legitimate power. We desire that the said societies should be held proscribed and rebuked by us under the same penalties as those which are specified in the previous constitutions of our predecessors, and this in sight of all the faithful in Christ, of every condition, rank, and dignity, and throughout all the earth. There remains now nothing wanting to satisfy the wishes and solicitude of our paternal heart than to warn and admonish the faithful who should have associated themselves with sects of this character to obey in future wiser inspirations, and to abandon those fatal councils, in order that they may not be dragged into the abysses of eternal perdition. As regards all others of the faithful, filled with solicitude for their souls, we strongly exhort them to be upon their guard against the perfidious language of sectarians, who, under a fair exterior, are inflamed with a burning hatred against the religion of Christ and legitimate authority, and who have but one single thought and single end—viz., to overthrow all rights, both human and divine. Let them well understand that those affiliated to such sects are like the wolves whom Christ our Lord prophesied would come disguised in sheep's clothing to devour the flock; let them understand they are of the number of those whose society the Apostle has also forbidden to us, eloquently prohibiting us from even saying unto them—Hall! May the all-merciful God, hearing our prayers, grant that with the aid of His grace the insensate may return to reason, and those who have gone astray to be led back to the path of justice! May God grant that after the suppression of the depraved men who, by the aid of the above-mentioned societies, give themselves up to impious and criminal acts, the Church and human society may be able to repose in some degree from such numerous and inveterate evils! In order that our vows may be heard, let us also pray to our mediatrix with the all-clement God, the most holy Virgin, that mother immaculate from her birth, to whom it has been granted to overthrow the enemies of the Church and monstrous errors. Let us equally pray for the protection of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, by whose glorious blood this noble city has been sanctified. We have confidence that with their assistance and aid we shall the more easily obtain what we ask of the Divine bounty.

The official *Giornale di Roma* announces that it is authorised to declare that the Pope in his Allocution spoke, as at all times, from the promptings of his own conscience, with full independence. The *Giornale di Roma* continues:—

His expressions were not strengthened or modified by any influence. None would have presumed to interpose a veto, which would not have been regarded. This declaration replies to the journals which have wounded the honour of the Holy See and the honour of the Chief of the French nation by asserting that the French Government had prohibited the publication of some expressions in the Allocution relative to the funeral of Marshal Magran.

SUPPOSED DISCOVERY OF SURVIVORS OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITION.

MR. HENRY GRINNELL, of New York, has received a letter from Mr. Hall, the Arctic explorer, who believes that he has discovered traces of four of Sir John Franklin's party. The following extract is published:—

Winter Quarters, in Igloo, Friday, Dec. 10, 1864. Noo-Wook, West End Rowe's Welcome, lat. 64°46' N., long. 87°20' W.

Dear Friend Chapel,—In this letter I have some deeply interesting intelligence to communicate to you. Since falling in with the natives I have not been idle. Nothing in Parry's narrative of second voyage for the discovery of north-west passage relating to the Esquimaux of Winter Island and Igloodik, but these natives are perfectly posted up. Indeed, I find, through my superior interpreter, Too-koo-li-too, that many deeply interesting incidents occurred at both named places that never found their place in Parry's or Lyon's works. But the great work already done by me is gaining, little by little, from these natives, through Too-koo-li-too and E-bier-bing, relating to Sir John Franklin's expedition. This, you know, was the great object of my mission to the north. I cannot stop to tell you now all I have gained of this people—no, not the one-hundredth part—most of it relating to Franklin's expedition. (The natives are now loading sledge; it is half-past seven o'clock a.m.) I will give you very briefly what the people of England and America will be most interested to learn. When I come down I shall bring my despatches and journals up to the time of writing to you. These will be committed to your care for transmitting to the States. The most important matter that I have acquired relates to the fact that there may yet be three survivors of Sir John Franklin's expedition—and one of these Crozier, the one who succeeded Sir John Franklin on his death. The details are deeply interesting, but this must suffice till I come down. Crozier and three men with him were found by a cousin of Oo-e-la (Albert), Shoo-eh-ark-nuhl (John), and Artoo (Frank), while moving on the ice from one igloo to another, this cousin having with him his family and engaged in sealing. This occurred near Neitchille (Boothia Felix Peninsula). Crozier was "nothing but skin and bones," was nearly starved to death, while the three men with him were fat. The cousin soon learned that the three fat men had been living on human flesh—on the flesh of their companions, who all deserted the two ships that were fast in mountains of ice—while Crozier was the only man that would not eat human flesh, and for this reason he was almost dead from starvation. This cousin (who has two names, but I cannot stop to give them now) took Crozier and the three men at once in charge. He soon caught a seal, and gave Crozier quickly a little—a very little piece, which was nearly raw—only one mouthful the first day. The cousin did not give the three fat men anything, for they could well get along till Crozier's life was safe. The next day the cousin gave Crozier a little larger piece of the same seal. By the judicious care of this cousin for Crozier, his life was saved. Indeed, Crozier's own judgment stuck to him in this terrible situation, for he agreed with this cousin that one little bit was all he should have the first day. When the cousin first saw Crozier's face it looked so bad, his eyes all sunk in, the face so skeleton-like and haggard, that he (the cousin) did not dare to look upon Crozier's face for several days after, it made him (the cousin) feel so bad! This noble cousin, whom the whole civilised world will ever remember for his humanity, took care of Crozier and his three men, save one who died, during the whole winter. One man, however, died a short time after the cousin found them, not because he starved, but because he was sick. In the spring Crozier and the remaining two men accompanied this cousin on the Boothia Felix Peninsula to Neitchille, where there were many Innuita. Crozier and each of his men had guns and plenty of ammunition, and many pretty things. They killed a great many ducks, noways, &c., with their guns. Here they lived with the Innuita at Neitchille, and Crozier became fat and of good health. Crozier told this cousin that he was once at Innol-le (Repulse Bay), at Winter Island and Igloodik many years before, and that at the two last-named places he saw many Innuita, and got acquainted with them. This cousin had heard of Parry, Lyon, and Crozier from his Innuit friends at Repulse Bay some years previous, and therefore, when Crozier gave him his name, he recollected it. The cousin saw Crozier, one year before he found him and the three men, where the two ships were in the ice. It was there that the cousin found out that Crozier had been to Igloodik. Crozier and the two men lived with the Neitchille Innuita some time. The Innuita liked him (Crozier) very much, and treated him always very kindly. At length Crozier, with his two men and one Innuit, who took along a ki-ak (?) (an indiarubber boat, as E-bier-bing thinks it was, for all along the ribs there was something that could be filled with air), left Neitchille to try to go to the Koo-lu-nas country, taking a south course. When Oo-e-la (Albert) and his brothers, in 1854, saw this cousin that had been so good to Crozier and his men, at Felly Bay (which is not far from Neitchille), the cousin had not heard whether Crozier and the two men and Neitchille Innuit had ever come back or not. The Innuita never think they are dead—do not believe they are. Crozier offered to give his gun to the cousin for saving his life; but the cousin would not accept it, for he was afraid it would kill him (the cousin), it made such a great noise, and killed everything with nothing. Then Crozier gave him (the cousin) a long, curious knife (sword, as E-bier-bing and Too-koo-li-too say it is), and gave him many pretty things besides. (The dogs are all in harness, and sledges loaded, and Innuita waiting for my letters. I promise to be ready in thirty minutes.) Crozier told the cousin of a fight with a band of Indians—not Innuita, but Indians. This must have occurred near the entrance of Great Fish or Back's River. More of this when I see you. . . . God bless you. C. F. HALL.

DEATH OF THE REV. CANON STOWELL.—The death of this well-known clergyman took place, on Sunday afternoon, at his residence in Salford. He was attacked with paralysis a few days ago. The late Canon Stowell was born at Douglas, Isle of Man, in 1799, his father being Rector of Ballaugh, and he was distantly related to the Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool. The reverend Canon was ordained, in 1823, by the Bishop of Gloucester. His first curacy was at Sheepscote, near Stroud, but in three months he removed to Huddersfield, and two years after, to St. Stephen's, Salford. There he became distinguished for the vigour and fervour of his preaching, and for laborious devotion to his parochial duties. His congregation raised a subscription of £15,000 to build for him Christ Church and schools, Salford, in 1838, and he has retained the incumbency ever since. He was widely known as one of the most zealous and able of the Evangelical party. Apart from his incumbency, the rectory of Christ Church, we believe his only preferments were the honorary canonry of Chester Cathedral, bestowed upon him by the late Archbishop Sumner, when Bishop of Chester; a chaplaincy to the Bishop of Manchester, and the office of Rural Dean of Salford. Mr. Stowell was married, in 1828, to Anne Susannah, eldest daughter of Mr. Richard Ashworth, barrister, of Manchester. He had a family of five daughters and two sons, both of whom took holy orders.

TERRIBLE SHIPWRECK NEAR CALCUTTA.

ON Sunday morning, Aug. 19, 425 statute adult coolies, or 300 men, 93 women, and 65 children under ten, and 39 infants in arms—making 497 human beings—sailed from Port Canning, for Demerara, in the Eagle Speed, Captain Brinsden. The ship was American originally, and pine built; she was not classed high at Lloyds', but she seems to have been an average vessel. All the formalities and inspection necessary in shipping coolies seem to have been attended to by the protector of emigrants and the agent for the colony except one—the crew were not mustered by the pilot. Had this been done it would have been found that, though it was of sufficient strength in numbers, only six were able for work. The captain was, or had been, ailing, but was on duty, and he was anxious to get out to sea, that there his men might get well after a debauch on land. The chief officer was ill and off duty. Even the coolie doctor was ill; but the port doctor took his place until the ship should get to sea. The port-master, Captain Hoskins, accompanied the ship down the estuary. The ship was towed by the Lady Elgin steamer, Captain Heath, on board which, as a passenger, was Captain W. G. Maitland, of the 29th Punjaubs. At four o'clock on the subsequent day, when wind and weather were both bad, the rope connecting the steamer and the ship broke, and during the two hours occupied in passing another rope the ship drifted on to the Roy Mutiah sands and sprung a leak. Professional men assert that if she had been a new or an iron ship this would not have happened; and a correspondent of a Calcutta paper asserts that 75 per cent of all the vessels engaged in the coolie trade are not classed at Lloyds' at all. The Emigration Commissioners will see to this, doubtless. With a bad leak and heavy weather, the ship ought at once to have been towed back to Halliday Island, the nearest good anchorage. Instead of this, the steamer took her out towards sea till, at ten o'clock at night, the steamer also broke down, and both anchored. All this time (from four to ten) the coolies had been at the pumps, and continued there till three next (Tuesday) morning, when the steamer was signalled for help, as the Eagle Speed was sinking. The steamer, however, neither towed the ship with her living freight back to Halliday Island nor passed lines by which the coolies might have boarded her, nor sent off her own three boats to help in transshipping them. The sea was high, but all the witnesses assert that any one of these plans might have been adopted, and would have saved every soul on board. Instead of this, only three of the ship's boats were lowered. The shrieking coolies clung to the gangways and bulwarks, eager to save themselves, and a few threw themselves into the water on hencoops and were picked up. One boat, manned by the pilot and crew, made one trip and never returned. A second, manned by the second officer and others of the crew, was stove in after the first trip. Captain Hoskins made five trips, till sunstroke disabled him. Then the steamer put down one of its three boats, and it was long till the offer of money and shame would induce the now saved ship's crew to man it. They positively refused to save their captain, who was still on the wreck. At last they made two trips, bringing him and the coolie doctor and others off. The scene on board, that Tuesday forenoon, must have been terrible. The interpreter had disappeared; the compounder and others had broken open the brandy-chest; the pilot had not returned; no one could speak a word of the language; no orders could be given. The captain left at half-past twelve, and, though the ship did not sink for eighteen hours after, the steamer returned to Port Canning with only 169 coolies saved, leaving the rest, without advice or encouragement, to their horrible fate. The excuse given is that there was only one day's coal on board. But even at this stage of mismanagement and barbarity there was enough coal to have enabled it to go to Halliday Island, deposit the coolies, and return for the larger number still abandoned. A fine boat had been left on the wreck unlaunched, and, as if to condemn the ignorant inhumanity of those on board the steamer, it was launched by the coolies with the aid of one sick European and four negroes. That boat actually passed the steamer, and found its way up to port. Imagination refuses to picture the horrors of 300 human beings when steamer and boat had left, all through that Tuesday afternoon and night, with the ship sinking, the water coming ever nearer, the breakers sweeping off the weak and despairing, and the strong clinging and climbing even higher on the masts. Wednesday morning dawned, and still no hope, till, about seven, she went down, and when the two steamers sent from Calcutta arrived at the scene they found only the top of the mizenmast with three boys clinging to it, and covered with the rags of the poor wretches who had been washed off or had thrown themselves into the sea unnumbered in the hope of safety. When the Lady Elgin returned she saved fifty who had found their way on pieces of the wreck to Halliday Island, and the Oude steamer, which has since been searching the creek, has picked up ten more. No less than 265 of the 497 coolies are lost. As if to add to the horrors of the story, several of the poor wretches who escaped drowning, when they landed on the mudsleets near, were carried off by tigers. A story is told of two children who floated to shore. One had left his companion for a moment, and returned to see him in a tiger's jaws. He again threw himself into the sea, and was picked up at the last extremity.

A FATAL DEER FIGHT.

THE following curious narrative is furnished by a correspondent of a daily contemporary:—

Sir,—I was witness this morning of a fight between two buck deer in the Home Park at Hampton Court, an account of which, as the circumstances under which it took place were most peculiar, may perhaps be of interest to your readers. I entered the Home Park by the lodge gate leading to the stud-house, and found, immediately upon entering the park, two deer engaged in a ferocious conflict, their antlers crashing and crackling together as they charged the one against the other. At first I regarded the combat as one of those ordinary misunderstandings which are wont to take place occasionally among the gentlemen deer in the parks; but I soon became aware of my mistake, for upon closely scrutinising the combatants I perceived that their antlers were fastened together by a strong and twisted coil of rope, about a yard in length, so that no strength either possessed was sufficient to break or separate the one animal from the other. At one moment, in their endeavours to get free, they would rush down an avenue racing pace, always, however, very naturally, running a dead heat. Then they would come to a sudden halt and have another furious set-to. Frequently they would run up to a tree and pull at the rope round the tree, striving, as it were, by pulling backwards against each other, to break the rope that bound them together. On one occasion, in their fury, they came at full speed against a portion of the paddock walls. The contest for more than ten minutes appeared equal on both sides, but at length the greater weight of one began to tell, and the smaller deer got dreadful punishment. For a time it would lie full length on the ground, bleeding copiously from its mouth and severely stabbed in several places, while its more powerful adversary stood panting by its side. Again and again the unequal fight was renewed. All this time an assistant of the gamekeeper assured me that it was useless to attempt to separate the poor wounded beasts until the stronger one became more exhausted, and neither he nor I had a knife with which the rope might have been possibly cut.

Later on, a gamekeeper, who seemed to have more authority, more knowledge, or, perhaps, more pluck, together with a third individual, joined the party, as the stronger deer rapidly described circles with his hind legs, while his head, attached by the ropes to the antlers of his prostrate adversary, formed the centre. After, perhaps, a score or so of such circles had been described, first one hind leg, then the other, was forcibly seized, and then the antlers, by one or other of the keeper's assistants, the stronger deer was thrown on his back, the ropes that bound the two animals were cut, and the victorious deer was too happy to make his escape. The other poor animal was so terribly wounded that it was found necessary to cut its throat upon the spot. The most extraordinary cause of this deadly strife remains to be explained. I was assured that the two deer got their antlers entangled in some cords which had been left out near one of the park lodges, and upon which linen had been put out to dry. When the cords were ultimately cut, one of the men remarked that if four or five men had been employed to twist and fasten them round the antlers of the two bucks the work could not have been more effectually performed.

A CORSICAN GIRL NAMED CONFORTI, hearing that her lover was about to be married to another girl, met him on his return home at night, and discharged the contents of a pistol into his breast, causing instant death. She was sentenced to ten years' hard labour.

Literature.

The North-West Passage by Land: being the Narrative of an Expedition from the Atlantic to the Pacific, &c. By Viscount MILTON, M.P., &c., and W. B. CHEADLE, M.A., M.D., &c. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

In the way of real hard travelling, resulting in a mission successfully accomplished, and accompanied by no irreparable disasters, this is as interesting a volume of sport and adventure as many seasons together have given us. Poor O'Hara Burke's exploration from Cooper's Creek to the Gulf of Carpentaria had no one redeeming point of luck—disaster unto death was the fate of almost all. Captain Burton's books abound in bloodshed—at least, black bloodshed; and in fifty other books, unnecessary to catalogue, the loss of a few Europeans comes unpleasantly in the midst of a meaningless journey. The object of Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle was to explore a route across the North American continent to British Columbia, through British territory, by one of the northern passes in the Rocky Mountains. They have done this, but in doing it have encountered and surmounted countless hardships. However, the end of the affair is satisfactory. The journey can be done, and considerable improvements on the route are contemplated by the adventurers. However, greatly as the journey will be decreased in length, the present routes over the Panama Railway, and the long sea voyage, are not at all likely to be forgotten. But the direct connection with cultivated Canada will be of the utmost importance, especially with reference to the China trade. Victoria (Vancouver Island) has a splendid harbour, and the coal-mines of the colony are the only ones on the Pacific coast of North America. Victoria is little more than 6000 miles from Hong-Kong, or about three weeks' steaming; and "if a railway were constructed from Halifax to some point in British Columbia, the whole distance to Southampton would be accomplished in thirty-six days—from fifteen to twenty days less than by the overland route, via Suez." But this must be an affair of time. It is given only to roses to be *couleur de rose* from the commencement; and the present path across the Rocky Mountains is neither figuratively nor literally rose-strewn.

Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle embarked from Liverpool for Quebec in the Anglo-Saxon on June 19, 1862. They had a worse than average run, and a worse than average run of passengers for companions. Prominent amongst them were two Romish Canadian priests, on their way home, after assisting at the canonisation of Japanese martyrs; an old lady "afflicted with papophobia," and a Colonel who considered himself demoralised for ever because he had been seasick. Out of these incongruous elements of society—society at sea being always a "scratch" match—they had the good fortune to select a gentleman named Tremiss, who is constantly with them through many pages, but who finally disappears after his immediate pursuit—buffalo-hunting. They are disappointed with Niagara, but wind up by admitting it to be grand. The sleeping-cars are luxurious, the American stage-wagon worse than a van without springs, and crowded to suffocation. In these few lines, be it understood, some two thirds of the journey has been passed over. The travellers have left Niagara, have crossed the southern bank of Lake Erie to Detroit on United States territory, then south of Lake Michigan by the Mississippi, through Wisconsin and Minnesota to the Red River, where they have some dangerous travelling by canoes; and then, with some hospitalities at Fort Garry, a settlement of the Hudson's Bay Company, they begin to make up their party, and prepare in earnest to cross the Rocky Mountains. Besides the travellers the cortege numbered four Canadians and Indians, with horses, of course. The supplies consisted of pemmican, dried meat, flour, tea, salt, tobacco, a large quantity of ammunition, blankets, buffalo robes, and knives and trinkets for Indian bartering. Six small carts carried the baggage. The travellers discarded boots and coats, and adopted deer-skins and moccasins. A double-barrelled gun, a revolver, and a knife were the arms, there being great objection to a rifle as a second gun, for in winter it could only be carried on a dog-sleigh, and would assuredly be bent and broken. The double-barrels prove of great use. The travellers have a knack of falling short of supplies, and then, in their winter encampment, a log hut of their own building, they have to depend upon their shooting, whilst some of their number are sent back to the fort for provisions. The moose is tolerably abundant, and so are some varieties of birds; but there are but few buffaloes, and bears are not plentiful. In the midst of these hardships they have to see that friendly Indians do not steal their horses, and they bury their rum in a cache, for fear of accidents. Perhaps the most important incident of the winter season is the manufacture of a Christmas plum-pudding. It is, perhaps, an innovation on the ordinary torture which we are made to endure only once a year; because his Lordship had kept the ordinary materials in his gun-case, and they had got loose, and become mingled with small-shot, gunpowder, and plugs of tobacco; but it was so welcome as a change that the travellers almost eat themselves to sleep with it, and then each kept awake in order to make sure that the other did not take a furtive mouthful out of turn. The journal of these winter months is full of information and anecdote, and all is told with good-nature and absence of complaint or self-glorification truly refreshing in the face of some travellers' tales. There are constant hunting-parties in dog-sleighs; or, on an emergency, the cart is harnessed to the horse's tail, and even under these circumstances, people do "hunt twice." The natural history is interesting, but necessarily not new, except as regards the red Indian, who seems to be a different kind of man since the days of Washington Irving's "Astoria." He is generally tolerably peaceable and honest, and has been known to starve for days without stealing easily-acquired food; but it might be dangerous to trust him with "untold" rum.

In due time the party sets out again—this time with some material changes in its organisation. They have had some secessions, and they have gained a treasure of a one-handed Indian, a splendid forester, called, after his tribe, the Assiniboine, and his wife and son. They have also suffered a Mr. O'Brien (O'Brien once creeps out) to join them. This gentleman is a nervous scholar, who has escaped from the Southern States at the commencement of the war, and is desirous of finding his fortune in Vancouver's Land. He is remarkable for falling off his horse and losing it, and of losing himself, and of being found reading Paley through a pair of spectacles with only one glass. He can never be persuaded to put his shoulder to the wheel, and every day he has a disturbance with the Assiniboine, whom he firmly believes intends to murder all the party—especially himself. This gentleman may be best dismissed at once. He must be the most foolish, selfish, and ungrateful man who ever shared in a journey; whilst Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle seem instinct with humanity and good-humour in favour of a man from whom they could so easily and justifiably have emancipated themselves. At the recommencement of the expedition the book is only half finished; but a brief summary of the remainder will answer all purposes. One of the guides deserts, but the Indian consents to follow the trail of a former emigrant party. This is too frequently lost. In going down a rapid they lose nearly all their stock: they have no tea nor tobacco, no frying-pan, no tin plates. They shoot but little, and then their powder is exhausted, and they live on berries, until they luckily fall in with some natives who are not quite so badly off as themselves. The Indians would have given up altogether, but for the English pluck and determination, which set an example they were ashamed not to follow. And, indeed, the poor Indians may be pardoned when we reflect on the delights of a few weeks, as described in the following passage:—

But the steepness of the path was not the greatest difficulty. No one who has not seen a primeval forest, where trees of gigantic size have grown and fallen undisturbed for ages, can form any idea of the collection of timber, or the impenetrable character of such a region. There were pines and tujas of every size—the patriarch of 300 ft. in height standing alone, or thickly clustering groups of young ones struggling for the vacant place of some prostrate giant. The fallen trees lay piled around, forming barriers often 6 ft. or 8 ft. high on every side; trunks of huge cedars, moss-grown and decayed, lay half buried in the ground on which others as mighty had recently

fallen; trees still green and living, recently blown down, blocking the view with the walls of earth held in their matted roots; living trunks, dead trunks, rotten trunks; dry, barkless trunks, and trunks moist and green with moss; bare trunks and trunks with branches—prostrate, reclining, horizontal, propped up at different angles; timber of every size, in every stage of growth and decay, in every possible position, entangled in every possible combination. The swampy ground was densely covered with American dogwood, and elsewhere with thickets of the aralia, a tough-stemmed trailer, with leaves as large as those of the rhubarb plant, and growing in many places as high as our shoulders. Both stem and leaves are covered with sharp spines, which pierced our clothes as we forced our way through the tangled growth, and made the legs and hands of the pioneers scarred from the inflammation of myriads of punctures.

And only one axe for the whole party! That they should have escaped seems a miracle; and, since "the age" is passed, the chances are that no one would have escaped had they not killed some of their horses for food. Once at Kamloops, the last great station of the company, they are in excellent order, and the excitement of the volume is over. There, at all events, the living was good. In three weeks Dr. Cheadle found that he had increased forty-one pounds in weight.

The concluding pages are concerning life at Victoria and the diggings, and the local roads. They are as entertaining as the others, but may now be passed over, as sufficient idea of the book has already been given. A more cheerful account of hardships and dangers endured in a good cause has seldom been written, and the book cannot fail to recommend itself to every lover of adventurous literature. A great number of excellent wood-engravings illustrate the "North-West Passage by Land."

A Descriptive Handbook for the National Pictures in the Westminster Palace. By T. J. GULLICK. London: Bradbury, Evans, and Co.

On taking up this guide to the frescoes in the Houses of Parliament, and seeing on the cover, "sold in the palace by authority of the Lord Great Chamberlain," we were unavoidably reminded of a handbook "sold by authority" at the Exhibition of 1862, and notorious for the want of good taste and the impertinences it contained. There is no further resemblance between the work of Mr. Gullick and that of Mr. Palgrave, and the latter gentleman might study with benefit the pages of the guidebook before us. Mr. Gullick writes as a gentleman and a man of taste, and never, in one instance, oversteps the bounds of courtesy in speaking of the artists whose works he criticises.

Official handbooks should be fairly and moderately written, should contain ample information yet no dogmatism, and should be compact, and portable, and cheap. Those of our readers who visit the South Kensington Museum will agree with us that such handbooks are not what we usually get from official head-quarters. The ponderous and utterly useless catalogue issued in connection with the Miniature Exhibition is the last instance of this sort of blundering that occurs to us, but it is by no means a solitary one.

Mr. Gullick's handbook is a model of its class, and we should rejoice to see his name to similar publications for the chief national exhibitions. His style is pleasant, and his language clear and to the point. The slang of art, behind which little critics are fain to conceal their shallowness, never obscures his pages. Nor are they encumbered with "fine writing," whereby some writers delight to spin out their slender critical powers into an imposing article. Perfectly intelligible English, and just such, and so much, illustration as is needed to assist the spectator, combine to make Mr. Gullick's guidebook just the very book which we should like to see put into the hands of those who avail themselves of the Saturday granted them by the authorities to view what should be the great national paintings of our country.

It would be impossible for any critic of real worth to review this collection of works by artists of such various schools and of such varying merit without feeling called upon, here and there, to express disapproval. But Mr. Gullick does this with such refinement and care that the possibility of offence is removed. Where he can conscientiously praise, he does so with judicious temperance—where he cannot but blame, he does so with judgement and moderation.

The reading and research which Mr. Gullick has brought to bear on his work must be judged in inverse ratio to the magnitude of their results. To have combined so many and such apt illustrations and quotations in so small a compass he must have spent labour enough to fill a large volume. His powers of condensation and epitome are further shown in the brevity and clearness of the descriptions of the pictures and their histories. Now that Mr. MacIver's great fresco of the "Death of Nelson" is completed, the public should take the earliest possible opportunity while clear weather lasts of seeing a national work of such importance. If they wish to have a concise yet entertaining guide to this and the other frescoes in the palace they cannot do better than purchase Mr. Gullick's handbook, the modest price of which (one shilling) places it within easy reach of all. They will find it not only useful while they are in the Palace, but pleasant reading when they return home, and it is on this last account that we can give unqualified praise to it as a book calculated to popularise art without derogating from its dignity.

Fun. Vol. viii. Being New Series, Vol. I. Published (for the Proprietors) by Thomas Baker, 80, Fleet-street.

In a preface, teeming with humour and good-humour, Mr. Thomas Hood, the editor, explains that, in justice to "subscribers from the commencement," some few numbers of the old series of *Fun* have to be bound up with the first volume of the new series. If the new first volume be not adorned by this necessity, subscribers, old and new, will confess that its moral is pointed. A glance at the numbers now six months old is sufficient to see what great improvements were required, and a glance at the numbers of to-day is sufficient to understand how well those improvements have been understood and carried out. Mr. Hood has secured the services of authors and artists who display great originality and genuine ability. The verse-writing, especially, is far different to what many minds would consider "fun." It has much of that poetic mingling of grave and gay which the elder Hood practised, and in which he has been successfully followed by his son. Whilst, throughout, the aim may be to shoot folly as it flies, there are many pages here where folly, and graver matters, are transfigured for ever. These apparently ephemeral contributions do not, like port, lose all value after a few hours' opening. Many subjects are continued, and may be chased and rehearsed, week after week, with infinite pleasure. In the illustrations the new series is decidedly happy. The name of the Brothers Dalziel is sufficient to testify to the merit of the engravings, and the artists seem to be revelling in the effects possible by a clever and conscientious wood-cutter—we must not say xylographer. That the drawings are political and social; that they can be poetical when necessary; and that severity, satire, and good-humour are distributed where they are deserved; and that reminiscences of Watteau and Dresden china—all in pretty exaggeration—arrest the attention at every "initial letter," will probably be familiar to all who have ever looked over periodical literature. But that all these departments of art, verse, and prose are now done vastly better than they have hitherto been done in *Fun* is the pleasing fact which we have now to announce.

AMERICAN COMIC LITERATURE.

Artemus Ward, His Book: Being the Confessions and Experiences of a Showman. London: S. O. BOSTON.

Artemus Ward (his Travels) among the Mormons. Part I. On the Rampage. Part II. Perilous Litteratoor. Edited by E. P. HINGSTON. London: J. C. Hotten.

The Nasby Papers. By PETROLEUM V. NASBY, "Pastor uv the Church uv the Neo Dispensashun." London: Frederick Warne and Co.

The characteristics of Yankee comic writing are now pretty well understood in this country. The American comic writer is not witty, in our highly-polished European sense of the word; but, when really clever, he is intensely droll, with a spice of dry, sardonic humour in what he says. The best specimen we have ever had of

the Transatlantic wit was in the late Judge Haliburton's "Sam Slick." There he revelled, in his peculiar vein, in all his glory. Next to Judge Haliburton come, perhaps, the author of the "Biglow Papers," and Artemus Ward (or Mr. Charles F. Browne, which is his real name), showman, and public "lecturer." Artemus is a fine fellow in his way, and is continually saying very laughable things. He writes in a dialect peculiar to himself, or rather, perhaps, peculiar to America. "His Book" consists of a series of papers addressed to the newspapers, and descriptive of his adventures and experiences as a showman, and is studded throughout with quaint fancies, queer sayings, and hits at the peculiar characteristics and idiosyncrasies of his countrymen. For instance, their intense love of the "mighty dollar" and their tendency to turn every event into a medium of advertising, are caricatured in his constant references—quite irrespective of the nature of the subject in hand—to his own show. Then their devout belief in their institutions and their passion for speechifying are quizzed in the mock "orations" he delivers; and in his declaration that the earth makes its proper revolutions round the sun "subject to the Constitution of the United States!" His account of his visit to the Shakers, and the paper entitled "Among the Spirits," are especially good and characteristic.

The second volume mentioned in our list is in a somewhat different style. It is prefaced by an excellent introduction by Mr. Hingston, and mainly consists of a quietly-written account of the author's observations among the Mormons at Salt Lake City and of his adventures on the journey across the continent to California and back again by way of Nebraska and Colorado, the great silver-mining regions, the peculiarities of life in these comparatively newly-settled countries being hit off very happily. In this volume Artemus drops the character of showman and figures in that of a lecturer; and, as we learn that he is about to visit England and to address public audiences, we hope to make his personal acquaintance in that character. Mr. Hingston appends to his introduction a few notes and rules recently added by Artemus Ward to his entertainment "Among the Mormons," one or two of which we copy to give a notion of the man's style:—"Soldiers on the battle-field will be admitted to this entertainment gratis"—a very safe as well as liberal offer. "The Indians on the overland route live on routes and herbes. They are an intemperate people; they drink with impunity, or anybody who invites them"—the last-mentioned characteristic not being at all peculiar to Indians. "Artemus Ward delivered lectures before all the crowned heads of Europe—ever thought of delivering lectures!"—a tolerably safe assertion. The second division of this volume, "Perilous Litteratoor," consists of a series of papers in the same style, and principally exhibiting the same singularities of spelling and so forth as "His Book." On the whole, these are a very amusing work, and will afford the reader many a hearty laugh.

We are sorry that we cannot say the same of "The Nasby Papers." These are a mere slavish—and weak—imitation of Artemus Ward. The author's mode of comic writing may be thus indicated:—Exaggerate to the utmost the peculiarities of vulgar Yankee pronunciation, adopt a system of phonetic spelling to represent these exaggerated peculiarities, and you must needs be funny. This is a very easily got-up kind of fun, indeed, and very soon gets intensely tiresome. We occasionally meet the same kind of thing in our own comic literature; but it is of a low type, and is never carried to so absurd a degree as by Petroleum V. Nasby. Mr. Nasby is a scamp of the purest water. He is a good-for-nothing drunkard, who lives upon his wife's earnings as a washerwoman. He runs off to Canada to avoid being draughted; returns when he thinks the danger is over, is caught, and sent into the Federal army, whence he deserts and joins the Confederates, from whom he deserts in turn. He then returns to his native place in Ohio, sets up a church, "uv wich" he is "the paster in charge;" cheats and gulls everybody, and sends accounts of his exploits to the newspapers. This is the character Mr. Nasby gives of himself in these papers, which are about as devoid of real fun as P. V. N. seems to be of good principles. Of course, we understand that the whole affair, the character of Petroleum V. Nasby included, is fictitious. But the question continually occurs to us while reading both Nasby and Artemus Ward, "If these are fair, though caricatured, representations of the style of thought and speech among ordinary Americans, what has been the value of the boasted system of free education in the United States?" We have been often assured that all Americans—of the Northern States, at least—were able to read, write, and cipher; but this does not seem to be the case, if we may judge by the way in which these authors make their countrymen express themselves.

THE BURNING OF THE DWARF-CORK FORESTS, IN ALGERIA.

ALMOST every year the month of August is marked, in the Algerian provinces, by tremendous conflagrations, which frequently extend over a great portion of the forest land lying about the divisions of Medeah and Milianah. These fires are partly attributed to the Arabs, who set fire to the woods in order that they may create pasture-land for the following year; and partly to the combustion of dry wood and decaying vegetable matter by the heat of the sun. It is probable that these two causes may combine to produce the devastation of these patches of forest; and the present year will be remarkable for the large amount of damage that has been brought about by conflagrations of alarming magnitude.

The first calamity occurred, on Aug. 21, in the southern part of the subdivision of Medeah; and from there the fire spread to the other subdivision of Milianah, crossing the territory of the tribe of Matmets, notwithstanding the efforts of the natives to arrest its progress. Here it made tremendous ravages, and afterwards communicated to the farther tribes of Beni-Ahmed and Beni-Fathem.

On the 22nd the forest of Djebel-Doni was on fire, and, three days afterwards, after having touched as far as Fraylia to the Abida and Beni-Ferrhat, upon the left bank of the Chélif, it reached the plain, and seriously threatened to destroy the village of Daperré. Thus, at the same time, the three provinces were a prey to a vast conflagration, and, all the environs being covered with forests, it was almost impossible to organise any means for staying its ravages.

That these fires have always been among the conditions which arose from the strange fatuity of the Arabs may be proved by the account of Mr. Dawson Borrer, who, travelling in the line of coast from Algiers to Bona, in 1846, says:—"As we turned Cape Cavallo a new scene burst upon us. A vast tract of mountain-side presented one glowing sheet of flame. Towering heights were clothed with fire. Chased by the reflection, the silver rays of the pale moon no longer danced upon the rippling surface around us. Thus does the Kabyle clear a space upon his brushwood-clad mountains that he may cast in his grain, the sowing season being at hand."

In the neighbourhood represented in our Engraving there are few of the palms, agaves, or cactuses which give a character to African scenery. The oak-cork-trees (*chêne liège*) are almost the only timber in the woods, and little has been hitherto made of these tracts of forest, which extend northward to the sea.

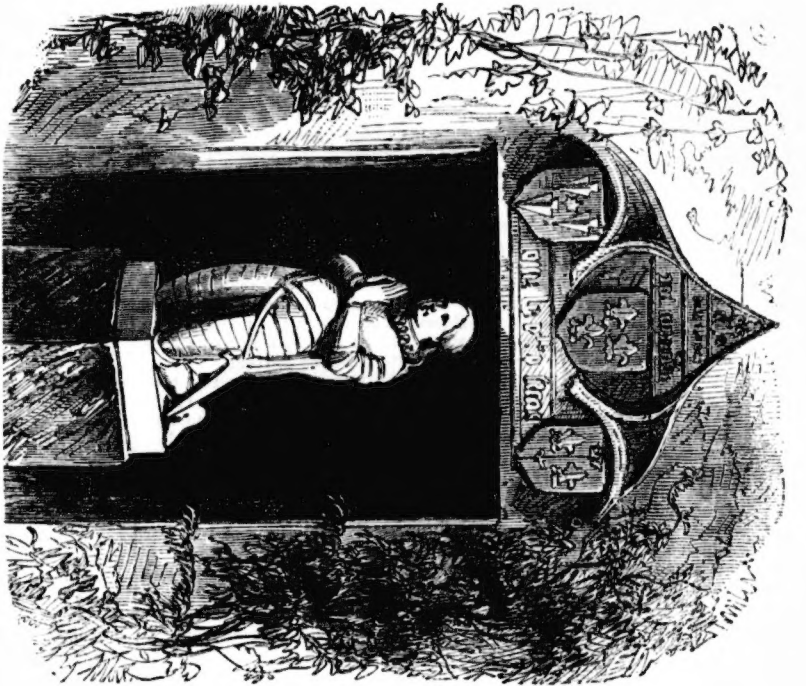
Philipville, the district where the fire last mentioned took place, is 213 miles east by north in a line from Algiers, and 220 miles by sea. Its capital, also named Philipville, was set on fire by the Kabyles during the first French occupation; but the flames were extinguished, and the Bedouins were then forbidden to remain within the walls after nightfall. Fortunately, on the present occasion, although it would seem almost impossible to cope with a burning forest, a sort of homeopathic remedy was adopted by the French troops and their Arab contingent, which consisted of digging an immense trench, beyond which the flames could not pass, and then setting fire to the wood at its further edge that it might meet the fire already raging and end the conflagration more quickly.

Strict inquiries are being instituted as to the cause of these periodical conflagrations.

A FRESH SCANDAL has occurred among the Eniskillens at Mhow. A Lieutenant had been placed under arrest by a court of inquiry, but the arrest was removed by the Commander-in-Chief.



BURNING OF CORK-TREE FORESTS, IN THE DISTRICT OF JEMAPPE, PHILIPVILLE, ALGERIA.



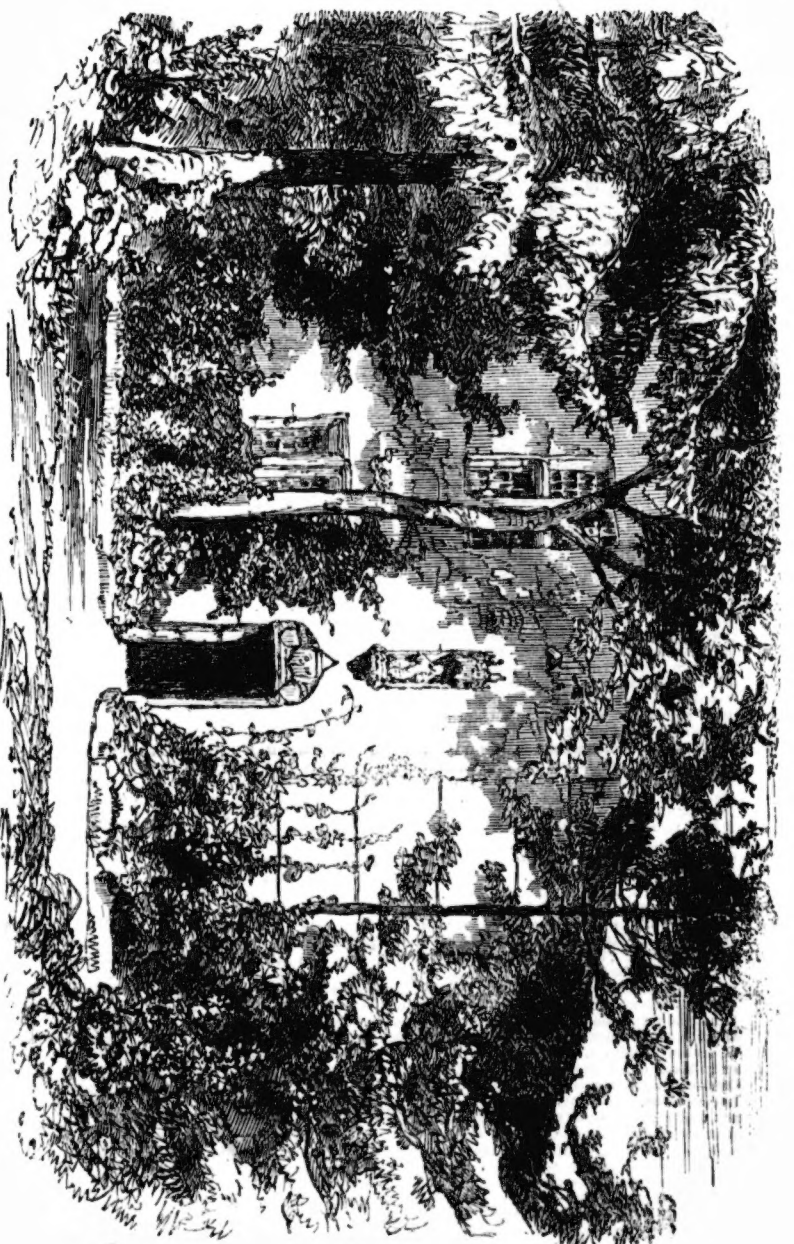
STATUE OF JOAN OF ARC BEFORE HER HOUSE AT DOMREMY.

THE FETE OF JOAN OF ARC, AT DOMREMY.

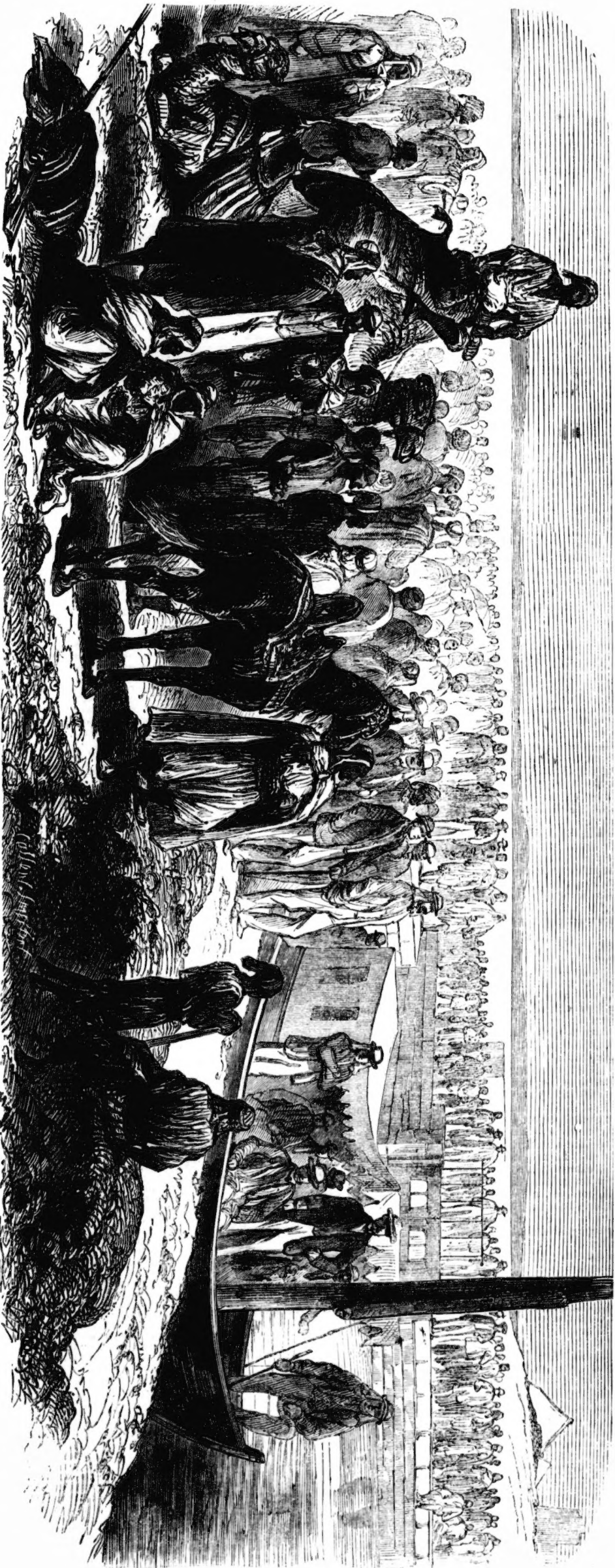
There is something not a little remarkable in the celebration, under the present empire, of the fete day of that Maid of Orleans who, after saving the crown for Charles II. and heading the troops at the relief of the town whence she gained her historical name, was afterwards taken prisoner at Compiègne, the present Imperial residence, and expired her patriotism at the stake, at Rouen, when she had only just reached womanhood.

In the department of Vosges, about eight miles from Neufchâteau, the River Meuse flows through a little village with about 350 inhabitants, the name of which should (one would think) never be heard in France without emotion, notwithstanding the venomous and wicked efforts of Voltaire, who made Joan of Arc the subject of one of his scurrilous poems. This village is named Domremy, and was the birthplace, in 1412, of that humble girl who, whatever may have been her frenzy, at least carried her wild, unselfish aspirations into effect with a heroism unsurpassed by any other of the celebrated women of history. Most of these well-known heroines, in fact, seem to have forgotten their sex when they devoted themselves to the service of the State or pursued a desire for vengeance; but throughout her career Joan never ceased to be a woman. When she was clad in armour and leading the troops to battle, she sighed for her native village; when she saw the preparations for her death, she wept. Brave enough in her unalterable purpose, she trembled at the secret foes by whom she was surrounded; and when she died, at twenty years old, by a cruel sentence, she left behind her the recollection of a young peasant girl who through all her fanaticism preserved the purity and simplicity that belong to youth. It is the obvious unselfishness of Joan of Arc which elevates her to a place amongst the most remarkable and the best of those who are remembered for similar efforts; and she will always hold a place apart from the ambitious and intrigues which too often sultry the records of other personages, who seem to have begun by acting under similar impulses. Even the rugged General Blucher, when he entered France with his companions in arms in 1814, passed respectfully through the little village of Domremy, and was satisfied to take a fragment, as a memento, from the house where the daughter of Jacques d'Arc and Isabelle Houette first saw the light.

Joan learnt her bitter lesson early; when, in 1418, the English entered that little village, and she and her relations had to fly from the scene of slaughter and pillage, which left a horror and a hope of retribution in her heart. She was of no common mould, and that



HOUSE AND STATUE OF JOAN OF ARC AT DOMREMY



PASSAGE OF THE FIRST VESSEL THROUGH THE SUIZ CANAL.

early experience bore strange fruit before she had reached womanhood, and in a time when the efforts of England to retain her hold upon the crown of France caused every evil that happened to be attributed to the English, who were harrying the people and laying waste their land.

The inhabitants of Domrémy, considering that they all form a part of the family of their heroine, have such a military *esprit* that a young woman there will scarcely accept the attentions of a lover who has not served in the army; and it is needless to say that every year they celebrate the birthday of their great countrywoman, and this year it has been made of extraordinary importance.

The journals of Lorraine had announced it from Neufchâteau to Metz, inviting all the inhabitants to attend the festival; and the same appeal was made in Alsace, where a young Professor, thoroughly national and with an intense admiration for the heroine, determined to profit by the occasion to recount her history in the place of her birth. This Professor, whose name is Ernest Morin, earnestly desires to revive the popular sentiment with regard to the national claims of Joan of Arc, and advocates the restoration as a monument of the Tower of Rouen, which was the scene of the martyrdom of the young peasant-girl, but has by some means or other become the private property of the Ursuline convent.

M. Morin has travelled through the country advocating the realisation of his patriotic wish, and has appealed for help to Paris, Orleans, Rouen, Havre, and other places where his own eloquence aided by the representations of the press, has effected so much that two general councils—those of the Lower Seine and Des Vosges—have already unanimously demanded the restoration of the tower.

On the last occasion of the fête this earnest advocate travelled from the extremity of Normandy to Domrémy, where, before the house of Joan of Arc, and under the shadow of the flag beneath which she led the soldiers to victory, he spoke for two hours to an attentive and highly sympathetic audience, from whom the impression made by his fervid eloquence will not be easily effaced.

Our Illustrations show the house of Joan's family and the monument to her memory in front of it, which was erected by Louis XI.

THE FIRST PASSAGE THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL.

On the first day of the present year the Suez Canal consisted of two distinct portions—one of fresh water, the other of ocean brine. The two were kept separate by two sluices. On the 15th of August last, the fête-day of the Emperor of the French, these two sluices were destroyed, and communication was established through the isthmus. On that day 300 tons of coal were carried from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, by a new and artificial channel. The affair was conducted with great ceremony. More than a hundred Arab sheiks, splendidly mounted upon horses and dromedaries, assisted at the ceremony and joined their salutations to those of the multitude which greeted M. de Lesseps with acclamations. A telegram announcing the successful opening of the canal was at once forwarded to the Emperor, who, on the same day, returned a courteous response thanking M. de Lesseps for the good news signalling his birthday.

CANADIAN CHEESE.—The chief feature of the New York State Agricultural Show, which has recently been held, was a monster cheese from Canada. They fancy that they know something about cheese in the State of New York; but Canada carried away the palm. Mr. Smith, of Norwich, exhibited a cheese of just a little over 4000 lb. in weight, which laid the New Yorkers as flat as pancakes. At first our Yankee cousins were not inclined to succumb and were clear that the cheese was not as good as it was great. They did not succeed in picking that hole in the Canadian grey coat of Mr. Smith, however. The cheese was carefully examined by the judges and pronounced fully up to the mark. The great cheese which has won such honour is to be shown at the provincial exhibition in London, Canada West. Afterwards it will be shipped to England, and there, also, it will spread the name and fame of Canadian dairies.—*Toronto Globe*.

MASSACRE OF INDIANS IN AMERICA.—A Committee of Congress has inquired into charges of brutal atrocities perpetrated by the United States troops in the Indian territory, and found them proved. One day in November Colonel Chivington, with 700 mounted men and two pieces of artillery, and Major Anthony, with 125 men and two more guns, bore down upon the Cheyennes. Fire was at once opened upon the defenceless people, of whom more than one half were women and children, and the slaughter did not cease until more than a hundred bodies were stretched on the plain. Nor was this all. "Not Content," say the Committee, "with killing women and children, who were incapable of offering any resistance, the soldiers indulged in acts of barbarity of the most revolting character, such, it is to be hoped, as never before disgraced the acts of men claiming to be civilised." The coolness with which the officers in command of the volunteers avowed their conduct when under examination is almost as revolting as the massacre which they countenanced, if they did not directly order it. They seemed to think that the slaughter of an Indian was an innocent, if not a meritorious, act.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT EXHIBITION.—An official announcement has just been made that the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have determined to hold a National Portrait Exhibition at South Kensington, in the arcades overlooking the Horticultural Society's Gardens, which will be opened in April, 1866. The proposed exhibition is based upon the suggestions made by the Earl of Derby in a letter published in May last; and a committee of advice, composed of the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, and other noblemen and gentlemen, was appointed, headed by the President of the Council, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Devonshire, and the Duke of Wellington. Mr. Samuel Redgrave, to whom the formation of the collection of portrait miniatures is chiefly due, has undertaken the direction of the exhibition, and Mr. Sketchley will act as secretary. The exhibition is designed to illustrate English history and the progress of art in England. It will comprise the portraits of persons of every class who have in any way attained eminence or distinction in England, from the date of the earliest authentic portraits to the present time, but will not include the portraits of living persons. The portraits of foreigners who have attained eminence or distinction in England will also be included, with portraits by foreign artists which represent persons so distinguished. It is further stated, in the programme of arrangements, that all charges for the conveyance of pictures accepted for exhibition by the committee will be defrayed by the Department of Science and Art. The exhibition will be opened early in April, 1866. The portraits, for the purpose of proper arranging and cataloguing, will be received not later than the second week in February, and will be returned at the end of August at the latest; but, though the exhibition will continue open till that time, any owner who requires the return of his contributions at the end of July will have them forwarded to him at once.

IMPROVED STEAM-ENGINE.—Almost every day witnesses the advent of some improvement or attempt at improvement in the application of steam-power, and especially in the portable form; and the desire for simplicity and a reduction in the number of parts has led to attempts almost without number to construct an engine with a continuous rotary movement, instead of a reciprocating one convertible to rotary movement by the action of a crank. It is obvious that a constant stopping and reversing must require greater weight and strength than a continuous movement in one single direction. Among the machines exhibited at the meeting of the British Association, at Birmingham, was a portable engine by Mr. R. W. Thompson, of Edinburgh, on the rotary principle. The boiler is vertical, having a cylinder of 3 ft. diameter by 6 ft. in height, the internal fire-surface consisting of a hemispherical bottom, with the heat spreading all over it by leading to a circle of vertical fire-tubes passing through the water. To one side of this boiler is attached the engine, which shows externally as a horizontal cylinder, about 12 in. in diameter by 2 ft. in length, within which the pistons revolve, the entrance and exit of the steam being provided for by the action of external elliptical tooth-wheels fixed on the revolving shafts, which, causing alternate faster or slower movement of the pistons past each other, opens and closes the passages. A drum-wheel on the axis of the cylinder carries a strap, which will put in motion any required machinery. The whole is supported on one pair of wheels, with a pair of shafts attached, and can be moved by one horse. The machine as shown was stated to be the equivalent of an ordinary eight-horse portable engine, and that the relative weights were 30 cwt. the rotary engine against 55 cwt. on the ordinary plan, while the cost price of the former to the latter was in the same proportion. No flywheel is needed to keep up the movement, and there is an absence of all the vibrating motion induced by the reciprocation of ordinary engines. The principle is equally applicable to portable purposes or to boats or locomotive engines. The actual consumption of fuel for work done was not given to the meeting; but, assuming it to be the same per horse-power, there is nothing in the wearing parts of the machine that may not easily be replaced, and at little cost. Every improvement of this kind, placing steam more and more within the reach of everyone for all the common labour-saving purposes of life, is a gain to the community. It is probable that this engine, worked by a blazing fire of petroleum, will prove the best and simplest, as well as the cleanliest, moving power applicable to ship's launches, which is now found to be almost a necessity of modern steamships, economising the strength of seamen by getting rid of the labour of the oar. Getting rid of weight in this machine is a very important matter, by allowing a larger amount of fuel, as well as facilitating the hoisting in and out.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

It appears that the winter musical season will be tolerably brisk after all. Both the opera-houses will be open at the end of the month. A series of vocal and instrumental concerts under the direction of Signor Arditi will be commenced towards the end of November, and about Christmas time the "Monday Populars" will, no doubt, begin again. The company at the Royal English Opera includes Miss Louisa Pyne, Mdme. Lemmens-Sherrington, and Mdme. Florence Lancia, among the sopranos; Mr. Charles Adams and Mr. Henry Haigh among the tenors; Mr. Alberto Lawrence and Mr. Corri among the baritones and basses. We imagine, then, that the cast of "L'Africaine," with which the theatre opens on the 21st, will be as follows:—Selika, Miss Louisa Pyne; Inez, Mdme. Lemmens-Sherrington; Nelusko, Mr. Alberto Lawrence; Vasco di Gama, Mr. Charles Adams. With such a cast as this, supported by Mr. Alfred Mellon's admirable orchestra and chorus, the success of "L'Africaine" is placed beyond doubt.

At Her Majesty's Theatre we are promised a series of representations of Italian opera. On Monday, the 23rd, "Faust" will be given, with Gardoni, Santley, Sarolta, and Titiens in the principal parts; on Tuesday, "Fidelio;" on Thursday, "Don Giovanni;" on Saturday, "Der Freyschütz" or "Il Franco Archiere." In Weber's opera Mdme. Titiens will play the part of Agatha, and Mr. Santley that of Caspar. It may be remarked that not one of the four operas announced is the work of an Italian.

An attempt made last Friday, at the Middlesex Sessions, to deprive the Hanover-square Rooms of its license was unsuccessful. According to the strict letter of the law, however, the licenses granted to the proprietors of our concert-rooms have all long since been forfeited. The Act of Parliament under which music licenses are granted states distinctly that in no licensed "house, room, or garden," shall musical performances take place before five in the afternoon; and there is probably not one concert-room in London where morning concerts have not been given from time to time. At every West-End concert-room the law has certainly been broken in this particular; and, in the case of every such breach, it is provided by the Act that the license whose conditions have not been observed shall not be renewed. We should like to know what harm there can be in giving a concert at four in the afternoon when the law acknowledges that there is none in giving one at six in the evening. Was it considered, when the Act was passed, that listening to music early in the day had a demoralising effect? that it was something like drinking before dinner? This veto upon morning concerts is really very difficult to understand, and the only reasonable thing to do in connection with it is to abolish it. The licensing Act is in many respects unintelligible, and in many others absurd. Indeed, the whole of our legislation in respect to theatres and theatrical performances, concerts and concert-rooms, requires remodelling. The magistrates cannot agree as to what constitutes a stage play; nor, on the other hand, can they possibly disagree as to the absolute illegality of opening a concert-room before five in the afternoon.

Earl Dudley, the proprietor of Her Majesty's Theatre, likes everything, and especially music, in its proper place. He has discovered, however, that, for sacred music, a cathedral is not the proper place; and he has been so horrified by the recent performances at Gloucester, that he has now written a second letter on the subject, from which we extract the following passage as a curiosity:—

When a better religious feeling banished the festival from the choir—from the holy of holies—where it had degenerated from a service by the united choir to a performance of works on sacred subjects by English and foreign artists of indifferent reputation, greedy of pay then as now, and the latter barely able to pronounce the language they were paid to sing—in when this took place, the nave—the neglected, dusty, broken-floored, never-used nave, a mere ante-chapel to the choir—was suggested as a convenient place, and has been so used ever since; is this any reason that it should go on?

As Earl Dudley goes out of his way to attack public singers, they might fairly ask him in return why, since he has so bad an opinion of them, does he consent to derive a portion of his income from letting out one of the principal theatres in which those "English and foreign artists of indifferent reputation" perform? By doing so, does he not to some extent render himself their associate? And if the morals of the class which Earl Dudley so brilliantly adorns were to be strictly examined, does he suppose that no persons of "indifferent reputation" could be found among the English aristocracy? If, moreover, foreign artists are often unable to pronounce English correctly, Lord Dudley, an English nobleman, and a member of the superior branch of our Legislature, is unable to write it. Take, as an example, the sentence we have quoted, in which he speaks of the nave of a cathedral as though it were an omnibus. "The nave," he writes, "was suggested as a convenient place, and has been so used ever since; is this any reason that it should go on?"

At the Church Congress, just held at Norwich, attention was called to the subject of our Church music, than which, as a general rule, nothing can be more deplorable. Organists, professional singers, amateurs, and the body of the congregation, are, says a contemporary, "in the condition of very vague knowledge and very positive opinion. In the days of our grandmothers, when Tate and Brady were held in reverence and none but Methodists and extreme Evangelicals would endure a hymn, and the praises of God were drowned out by an ill-conditioned gallery of charity-children, there was peace in the organ-loft and in the family pew. Now that music, as an element in religious worship, has revived, like all things which have life in this strange world, one of the first proofs of its vitality is displayed in its tendency to promote pugnaity among the most amiable of mankind and womankind. Whether, after the season of agitation is passed through, clergy, organists, and people will combine in an enlightened and harmonious action, or whether we shall relapse into the Tate and Bradyism of our forefathers, it is not for us to foretell. In the mean time, disquisitions like Dr. Dykes's at Norwich, cannot fail to have some small beneficial effect." Dr. Dykes's recommendation to introduce part-singing among congregations is, however, a mistake, owing to the impossibility of insuring a properly-balanced distribution of parts. Part-music should be confined to the choir; and when the congregation sing, both choir and congregation should sing in unison, the harmony being supplied by the organ.

The Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts began for the season, on Saturday last, in the concert-room adjoining the centre transept. The programme included Beethoven's Second Symphony, in D, Weber's overture to Oberon, and Lackner's intermezzo and gigue, from his Second Suite, in E minor—all of which were excellently rendered under the judicious conducting of Mr. Manns. The singers were Mdme. Liebhart, Miss Berry, and Signor Ferranti. But the vocal part of the entertainment was shorn of its chief attraction by the unavoidable absence of Miss Louisa Pyne through illness. Nevertheless, the singing gave great satisfaction, Mdme. Liebhart and Signor Ferranti both being encored. Previous to the concert there was a display of the upper series of fountains.

THE LYING LIST.—This is the title now given in the press to the list of alleged losers by the Confederate cotton loan, and it would appear that the epithet is well merited. In addition to those we mentioned last week, the following persons have repudiated all interest in the loan, and of course deny having sustained any loss thereby:—John Laird, Birkenhead; Mr. B. Sampson, City editor of the *Times*; Mr. Rideout, of the *Morning Post*; Mr. Coutts Lindsay; Lord Wharfedale; Mr. W. Ewart, M.P., and his brother, Mr. Joseph Ewart; Lord Richard Grosvenor; Mr. W. G. Peacocke; and Lady C. Georgina Fane.

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.—A supplement to the *Gazette*, published on Wednesday night, contains the whole correspondence that has passed between Earl Russell and Mr. Adams with respect to the liability of England for the depredations of the Alabama and other Confederate cruisers. The correspondence involves a great deal of international law. It is, however, chiefly noticeable for the fact that the English Government refuses wholly to admit the liability of this country for the damage done to American commerce, or to submit the questions in dispute to arbitration. Earl Russell proposes instead that any questions agreed upon by the two countries shall be referred to a commission. This proposition Mr. Adams does not appear to think will be approved by his Government. The whole of the correspondence deserves a most careful perusal.

SCOTLAND.

DUEL WITH SODA-WATER BOTTLES.—Two worthies who had quarrelled, and who had been vowing vengeance on each other for some time, happened to meet recently in a public-house in Pulteneytown, where they mutually determined to settle up old scores, mine host volunteering to act as referee. The most natural weapon, the fist, was of course the only one that had occurred to them; but mine host, having one eye to his business and another to his fun, suggested that their quarrel was not one which should be settled by the vulgar resort to fistfights. Would they allow him to select the weapons with which they should fight? "Agreed," said both the worthies. "Well, gentlemen," said mine host, "you shall fight it out across this table, and your weapons shall be, not pistols, but soda-water bottles." A dozen baskets having been supplied to each, the fight began in downright earnest, each firing away his corks as fast as he could make them "pop," and by the time that each had stood a dozen rounds from his opponent they were tired enough, and the ludicrousness of the operations having changed their wrath to laughter loud and long, they shook hands and departed, not foes, but friends.—*John o'Groat's Journal*.

GREAT DEMAND FOR MILL-WORKERS.—The demand for all kinds of mill-workers in Glasgow is on the increase, it appears, and employers now, in some instances, find it difficult to procure a sufficient number of hands. Agents are in Glasgow bidding keenly for skilled workers to go to New England, to be employed in mills and factories there; and there is little reason to doubt that this competition in the labour market will have a tendency to raise the rate of wages. Candidates for emigration are informed that the climate of New England is salubrious; that the wages for cotton-spinners are from 4s. to 6s. a day, power-loom weavers (men and women) from 4s. to 5s. a day, carding-room girls and threadtwisters (men and women) from 4s. to 5s. a day, boarding from 7s. to 8s. a week. These figures may be quite correct, but there is one important fact that the agents have omitted to mention—viz., the hours of labour in the American factories. The hours there, it is well known, are not regulated by legislative enactment, as in this country, and it is not unusual, it is said, for men and women to be confined within the factory walls from five a.m. till eight or nine p.m. during the week, and till six p.m. on Saturday. Intending emigrants should, therefore, weigh the matter well before venturing across the Atlantic.

THE PROVINCES.

A MARRIAGE CEREMONY SUSPENDED.—The other day, in accordance with previous arrangement, a couple attended at St. Osyth Church, Essex, for the purpose of being united in wedlock, the Rev. Mr. Agassiz, of Great Clacton, being present to officiate, in the absence of the Incumbent. All went well until the clergyman required the bridegroom to repeat after him the words, "I, —, take — to be my wedded wife . . . for better, for worse," &c., when, with ill-timed levity, he altered the formula to "I'll take her for better, but not for worse." The rev. gentleman immediately closed the book and quitted the church.

A FAITHFUL DOG.—Elizabeth Serjeant, aged six years, was left in a room on the ground floor at No. 10, Ashford-place, Charlton, Kent, with two younger children, by their mother, who had gone out to market. By some means the girl set herself on fire, and when she screamed a little dog jumped through a pane of glass into the room; and, on the mother's return, which was in a few minutes, she saw him tearing away the child's clothes with his mouth and paws. Upon his seeing the mother he went up to her and laid hold of her gown to draw her towards the child. The child was removed to the infirmary, but died from the effects of the injuries.

GALLANT CONDUCT OF A BOY.—While three boys, whose ages ranged from seven to ten years, were bathing near Penzance, a few days since, one of them, named Bazeley, attempted to ford Ponsandane River. He was knocked off his legs by a heavy surf and carried up the river into deep water. At this time two boys, named Gifford and Pascoe, who had been amusing themselves near the spot with mimic boats, came up and were at once informed of Bazeley's danger. No sooner did the drowning lad rise to the surface than Gifford, who is under twelve years of age, jumped into the river without taking off any of his clothing. With some difficulty he got hold of Bazeley and pushed him towards the land. Pascoe went to his assistance, and Bazeley was dragged ashore insensible. The band of youngsters covered him with clothing and conveyed him home, where he recovered.

A CATTLE-PLAGUE PSALM.—The following is part of a psalm sung in Osmotherly Church, Yorkshire, above a century ago. It was composed by the parish clerk on the occasion of the murrain, a severe distemper that raged among the horned cattle in the year 1747. It was sung and chorused by the whole congregation in the church. The four first stanzas contained an account of the cattle that died and the names of the farmers to whom they belonged. The remaining verses were as follow:—

No Christian's bull nor cow, they say,
But takes it out of hand;
And we shall have no cows at all,
I doubt, within this land.
The doctors, though they all have spoke
Like learned gentlemen,
And told us how the entrails look,
Of cattle dead and green;
Yet they do nothing do at all,
With all their learning's store;
So Heaven drive out this plague away,
And vex us not no more.

This piece was so well received that after the service it was desired again by all the congregation—except five farmers—who wept—declaring that the lines were too moving. The Minister, on going out, said to the clerk, "Why, John, what psalm was that we had to-day—it was not of David's." "No, no," quoth John, big with the honour he had acquired. "David never made such a psalm since he was born—this is one of my own."—*History of Allertonshire*.

THE NEW COURTS OF JUSTICE.—The Commissioners of the Courts of Justice Concentration Site Act have at length taken possession of their official residence, at the old Insolvent Debtors' Court, in Portugal-street, and are causing notices to be served upon all persons having any interest in the proposed site for the erection of such courts. The following is a form of such notice:—"If after twenty-one days' date no claim is sent in, the commissioners will proceed *ex parte*, under the 21st and following sections, to ascertain the value of such houses as may be required to be pulled down for the purpose of clearance."

RAILWAY TRAVELLING IN INDIA.—A marvellous illustration of recent progress in India is supplied by the railway statistics. The annual official holiday, known as the Doorga Pooja, begins on Sept. 25, and lasts about a fortnight. On Aug. 15 the great Jamma-bridge, near Allahabad, was opened to the through traffic, reducing the delay between Calcutta and Delhi by two hours. The East India Railway Company offered holiday-makers return tickets available for three weeks between the two capitals—English and Mussulman—for £7 second, and £12 first class, and each may take two servants at £2 2s. a head, besides luggage. The distance both ways is 2040 miles! Moreover, the superstitious Hindoo is tempted to visit his holy kasi, Benares, by the offer of a third-class ticket for £1 4s., a distance both ways of 1081 miles.

A GOOD STORY.—An English philanthropist was taken some years ago to see one of the schools in Dublin devoted to the conversion of children to Protestantism. The master put the rather small class in attendance through a very fair lesson in Biblical knowledge, and then proceeded to display some of the practical instructions received by his pupils. "Now, boys, you know Donnybrook Fair?" "Yes, Sir, we do." (Every hand up.) "Is it right to go to Donnybrook Fair?" "No, Sir, it is not." "What is it?" "It's a sin, Sir." "Very well, boys," replied the master. Turning to his English visitor, "You see we do not neglect to inculcate practical precepts as well as religious opinions!" "Quite true," said the visitor; "but may I be allowed to put a question to the boys myself?" "Oh, certainly, Sir; whatever you please." "Well, then, boys, tell me honestly, every boy who has been to Donnybrook this year, hold up his hand!" Up went every hand in the class. Of course the boys, being Irish, saw the intensity of the joke, and laughed accordingly, and the master being of the same nation was not more backward, in spite of his defeat; and visitor, teacher, and scholars joined in a good hearty roar, which had hardly calmed down when one little gamin of the class stepped forward and put up his hand. "Please, Sir, I went to Donnybrook to distribute tracts!" As the idea of any urchin going to Donnybrook to sell tracts, or coming alive out of it if he did, was utterly incredible, the laugh broke out again with renewed violence, till the visitor took his departure.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

MR. CARLYLE ON NATURAL HISTORY.—We read in the *Edinburgh Courant*:—"Our townsman, Mr. Adam White, for many years in the natural history department of the British Museum, proposes to introduce the teaching of natural history into boarding-schools and private families. On his project, and on the general introduction of that delightful science into the curriculum of ordinary education, Mr. White has been favoured by Mr. Thomas Carlyle with a characteristic letter, from which the following is an extract:—'For many years it has been one of my constant regrets that no schoolmaster of mine had a knowledge of natural history, so far, at least, as to have taught me the grasses that grow by the wayside, and the little winged and wingless neighbours that are continually meeting me with a salutation that I cannot answer, as things are! Why didn't somebody teach me the constellations, too, and make me at home in the starry heavens, which are always overhead, and which I don't half know to this day? I love to prophesy that there will come a time when not in Edinburgh only, but in all Scottish and European towns and villages, the schoolmaster will be strictly required to possess these two capabilities (neither Greek nor Latin more strict), and that no ingenious little denizen of this universe be thenceforward debarred from his right of liberty in those two departments, and doomed to look on them as if across grated fences all his life! For the rest, I cannot doubt but, one way or other, you will by-and-by make your valuable indubitable gift available in Edinburgh, either to the young or to the older, on such conditions as there are; and I much recommend a zealous and judicious persistence till you do succeed.—Believe me yours very sincerely, T. CARLYLE."

LAW AND CRIME.

It affords no slight illustration of English liberty that there should exist in almost every municipality two sets of powers constantly at variance between themselves, without either possessing the means of commanding or injuring the other. We allude to the magisterial and the parochial authorities. The issue between them is continually occurring in this way. Some wretched creature applies at a police court and makes a statement imputing reckless inhumanity to parochial officials. The magistrate, whoever he may be, usually, after inquiry, relieves the applicant's immediate necessities. The statement is reported in the journals, and, a day or two after, the workhouse people send somebody who, with all the pride and pompousness of Bumbledom, comes to complain of the publication of *ex parte* allegations, and usually departs after something very like an admission of the facts, and after a sound, logical "setting down" from the Bench. This seems to be quite an ordinary matter at our police courts. Here is one of the latest instances of it. A poor woman, accompanied by two boys, aged eleven and seven, complained that, being exhausted with fatigue and want of food, she and her children applied for assistance to one Williams, the relieving officer at Bishopsgate. He asked where she had slept last, and on being told that she had spent the night in a barn at Eltham, since when she had not tasted food, said he must make inquiries at Eltham before relieving her. On her becoming importunate, he, according to her account, ordered a porter to throw her out. This, however, was not done. Last Saturday several of the East London guardians, attended by their clerk, Mr. Baylis, attended at the Mansion House to explain. Mr. Baylis complained that Mr. Oke, his Lordship's chief clerk, was reported to have said that "he had observed a disposition on the part of the guardians of this particular union to screen their officers." This, said Mr. Baylis, was not true. On the contrary, whenever their officers had been found in the wrong, upon investigation, the guardians had "castigated" them. The Lord Mayor observed that he had never heard of their having done so. A paper was produced in which the Lord Mayor remarked that something was said about the woman's having been intoxicated. His Lordship said that she bore no appearance of intoxication when before him, and that she could not have got intoxicated on her way back to the relieving officer, as she was accompanied by the officer of the court at his Lordship's express desire. Mr. Baylis himself mentioned another matter which had been referred to by Mr. Oke, which the Lord Mayor afterwards described as that of the union porter who "swore to certain facts, and three or four persons directly contrary to him, in the case of a young woman who had knocked at his door for relief. It might have been as well," said the Lord Mayor to the guardians, "for you to have heard some of the neighbours on the subject, and to have seen whether he was the kind and considerate person he ought to be, holding such an office, or the ruffian he is represented to be, for here the neighbours stated broadly that he was frequently in the habit of annoying people and throwing pails of water over children." In reply to this, Mr. Baylis admitted that the guardians did not attempt to justify the porter. The chairman said that if their relieving officer had done what he was said to have done, he ought never to have been in that position, about which, said the Lord Mayor, "there could not be two opinions." So the deputation withdrew. What good they obtained by their attendance, beyond the well-merited "flea in the ear," which is the usual reward of parochial "explainers," it would be hard to discover. They asserted no material fact which was not contradicted, and they contradicted nothing which was not maintained against them. When they attempted to claim credit for certain of their own officials, the Lord Mayor remarked "All angels," at which the auditory laughed.

A free pardon has been granted to Mdme. Valentin. It may be remembered that in our last week's impression such a result was confidently anticipated. One would like to know the feelings of the jury whose egregious perverseness has received such a rebuke. They have caused the imprisonment of a lady not only innocent but almost without imputation on the evidence upon which these jurymen found her guilty. Moreover, there is no excuse for them upon the ground of human fallibility. Their fault was no error of judgment, but the absolute negation of all power of discriminating between right and wrong, of weighing facts, even of capacity of being directed by a patient and intellectual Judge. Really their names ought to be published as those of persons utterly unfit and incompetent for any public duty requiring the exercise of common sense. Only one consideration withholds us from sending for a copy of the panel in order to publish the names of these most mischievously-foolish persons; and that consideration is, that, perhaps, one of the jurors therein named might have been absent and his place filled by a substitute. In such case we cannot but think that he might well and effectually make a grievance out of being classed with persons who have so disgraced the jury-box.

We last week referred to a case ("Deere v. Law") in which a local Act of the city of London formed matter of question upon a point of costs in a small debt case. Mr. Justice Willes, it may be remembered, expressed himself "staggered" by one clause of the statute which deprived the plaintiff recovering a debt under £20 of his costs absolutely, if the defendant could have been sued through the City Sheriffs' Court. His Lordship reserved his decision, and has since made an order, of which, as it has been inaccurately quoted elsewhere, we subjoin a copy. The effect and intention of the order is to afford the defendant an opportunity of obtaining a decision, as to the costs, from the full Court of Judges in Banco. Mr. Justice Willes orders "that the plaintiff do recover his costs herein, but execution is not to issue before the third day of next term, provided the defendant pays the debt in two days."

Currie, the soldier who assassinated Major De Vere, was hanged on Thursday last, outside Maidenstone gaol. The military were kept within barracks, by order. This appears a very remarkable fact, when it is considered that efforts had been made to have the convict executed in the barrack-yard by way of example to his comrades. "Second thoughts are best," says the proverb. It is quite evident that the authorities, after deliberation, regard the "example" afforded by a public execution not as calculated to lead to moral improvement.

If the military and civil powers be not at issue on this point, it is hard to reconcile on the one hand the continuance of capital punishment, and on the other the exclusion from its exhibition of those whom it is desired to impress. And, if this difference exist, it is equally clear that the abolitionists of capital punishment have influenced one of the parties in their favour.

INHUMAN TREATMENT OF A DYING MAN BY HIS WIFE.—Mr. Clements, one of the relieving officers for the borough of Plymouth, on Tuesday attended at the Guildhall and related to the magistrates the following outrage which had been committed upon a dying man. He said one James Brown, who resided at 24, Milton-street, had, through a doctor's recommendation, been receiving relief from the parish. The poor man was dropsical, and it was thought that there was not much chance of his recovery. At all events, the wife, who was now present, obtained the services of an undertaker. A coffin was made, and Brown was actually stretched out in it, and salt had been put on his body to prevent his bursting, just the same as a corpse would be treated. Mr. Luscombe: Is the man dead?—Mr. Clements: No; I have seen him this morning and conversed with him, and he was able to tell me all that had taken place. The poor man said: "I could tell all they were doing, but I was in such a state I could not help myself." I believe Brown was laid out by his wife, and the great secret is this: there is a policy of £14 on the man's life. A Mrs. Brewer was called forward, and stated that she had rented a room of Mrs. Brown since last February. Since she had been in the house she had frequently noticed Mrs. Brown leave home at six o'clock in the morning and not return until late in the evening. Sometimes when she came into the house and saw her husband, perhaps seated in a chair, she would say to him, "What! you there yet! Baint you dead?" (Sensation.) Mr. Phillips: Do you mean to say that the poor man had nothing to eat?—Mrs. Brewer: I have frequently taken to him a drop of broth or anything that was nourishing. On Sunday night I stopped up with Mr. Brown, and remained there until six o'clock on Monday morning. Mr. Brown asked to have something put behind his back, but his wife said to me, "Mrs. Brewer, so long as you keep propping him up you keep rallying him. You won't let him go." Well, yesterday morning the bell was ringing at eight o'clock when Mrs. Brown came into my room, and I asked her how her husband was. She said, "He's gone." I said, "Dead?" and she replied, "Yes." I then asked her why she had not called me, and she said, "He is laid out, and it is all done." When I came down I saw Mr. Brown stretched out in the coffin, but he was breathing. He spoke to me and asked me how he came in that position. He said, "Where be I, Mrs. Brewer?"—Mr. Luscombe: Who put him into the coffin?—Mrs. Brewer: I asked her, and she said herself; but I told her she could not have done it without the assistance of the evil spirit.—Mr. Luscombe: Have you seen him this morning?—Mrs. Brewer: Yes; and he is sensible. He is better than he has been for several days. He is properly supported at the present time.—Mr. Phillips: Who was with her when the poor man was put into the coffin?—Mrs. Brewer: I am told that a man assisted her.—Mr. Luscombe said that Mrs. Brown would be detained in custody until Mr. Superintendent Freeman had had an opportunity of inquiring into the circumstances of the case.—Mrs. Brown said she was quite ready to remain; but she could assure the Bench that every morning she had got up and done everything for her husband.—Mr. Luscombe: It seems from the evidence to-day that you are very desirous of sending your husband out of the world as soon as possible for the sake of having £14 from the sick club.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.
THE demand for money for commercial purposes having become less active, owing to the Bank rate for accommodation being still 7 per cent, the market for Home Stocks has shown more firmness than in the previous week, and prices have slightly advanced. Consols, for Money, have marked 88½; 3½; Ditto, for Account, 89½; Reduced and New Three per Cents, 86½; 87; Exchange, 94½; 95; 2s. 2d.
There has been an improved feeling in the demand for Indian Securities.—India Stock, 216 to 219; Ditto Five per Cents, 104½ to 106; Rupee Paper, 100 to 102 and 108 to 109; India Bonds, 20s to 25s, per cent.
The Market for Foreign Securities has shown more firmness, and in several instances an improvement has taken place in prices.—Brazilian Scrip has been in fair demand, at 31 to 34 per cent.; Brazilian Four-and-a-half per Cent has realised 69 ex div.; Egyptian Seven per Cents, 94½; Ditto, 1864, 90½ ex div.; Italian Five per Cents, 1865, 77 ex div.; Mexican Three per Cents, 55½; Montevideo, 63; Portuguese Three per Cents, 49½; Russian Five per Cents, 89½; Ditto, 1864, 89½; Ditto, 1865, 89½; Ditto, 1866, 89½; Ditto, 1867, 89½; Ditto, 1868, 89½; Ditto, 1869, 89½; Ditto, 1870, 89½; Ditto, 1871, 89½; Ditto, 1872, 89½; Ditto, 1873, 89½; Ditto, 1874, 89½; Ditto, 1875, 89½; Ditto, 1876, 89½; Ditto, 1877, 89½; Ditto, 1878, 89½; Ditto, 1879, 89½; Ditto, 1880, 89½; Ditto, 1881, 89½; Ditto, 1882, 89½; Ditto, 1883, 89½; Ditto, 1884, 89½; Ditto, 1885, 89½; Ditto, 1886, 89½; Ditto, 1887, 89½; Ditto, 1888, 89½; Ditto, 1889, 89½; Ditto, 1890, 89½; Ditto, 1891, 89½; Ditto, 1892, 89½; Ditto, 1893, 89½; Ditto, 1894, 89½; 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